

Get on yer bike – take a tour of guildhalls and opera houses in south Beijing.

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Listen to Naxi ancient music at the Forbidden City Concert Hall tonight.

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Wu Ning, founder of China's first fencing club, is also an elegant ballet dancer.

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Nice One, Sun

WTO ambassador sets off for Geneva



By Shan Jinliang

Not for his brilliant language skills is China's first ambassador to the World Trade Organization renowned inside his old office at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) where he worked for 20 years.

Sun Zhenyu, who leaves Beijing for Geneva tomorrow and will attend the opening ceremony for the China permanent mission to WTO on Monday, speaks fluent English and French.

Sun is no stranger to Europe. In 1981, he attended a simultaneous interpretation training course in Europe.

"Minister Sun is really professional in language skills, worthy of our respect," said an un-named official in a recent *China Youth Daily* article.

Born in Hebei Province in March 1946, and a MOFTEC vice-minister since November 1994, Sun graduated from Beijing Foreign Languages Institute (today's Beijing Foreign Studies University) in April 1970.

"Minister Sun is very kind and approachable, not of the bureaucratic type," the official added.

His "pragmatic approach" and "warm temper", as referred to in the same long article, are not the only reasons Sun has earned renown with colleagues.

The National People's Congress Standing Committee on Saturday announced Sun's appointment as China's permanent representative and he was also appointed China's permanent deputy representative to the Geneva Office of the United Nations and other Switzerland-based international organizations.

Maybe not all MOFTEC mandarins at all levels of the white Changan Avenue building know Sun's full biography. For example, in July 1984, Sun began work as general manager of the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import and Export Corporation.

But Sun is known among his Ministry colleagues as a lover of sports, table tennis in particular. In office contests, he is famous for his "tui" (pushing return), "la" (pulling return) and "chou" (smash). This might prove useful in Geneva.

One of Our Dinosaurs is Missing

By Chen Ying

Chinese scientists want their bones back. The fossilized remains of a "parrot lizard" – *Psittacosau* – smuggled out of China to a Frankfurt museum has outraged Chinese paleontologists.

To its open public letter of December 25 demanding the fossil be returned, the Chinese Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (CSVP) still awaits a response.

They sent copies of their 660-word English-language letter to *US Science* magazine, Great Britain's *Nature* magazine, the International Museum Society and the government of Frankfurt.

Zhou Zhonghe, a researcher of the China Academy of Sciences, said colleagues were attending a seminar in Argentina in late 1999 when they first saw it.

"They were all shocked," said Zhou, "when they saw the photos. Your typical *Psittacosau* fossil is not rare. There are so many in China. But the one we saw in this seminar was actually unique as it has fine hair-like markings."

In early 2000, Zhou and colleagues saw the same fossils in a shop in Trieste, Italy. The shop owner of "Stone Age" refused to give the fossils – fossils that can only be found in Asia – to Chinese scientists. He also refused to label the fossils with their origin.

Nature reported the news that the museum bought the fossil for \$200,000. The museum has a collection that includes specimens of *Brachiosaurus*, *Diplodocus*, *Iguanodon*, *Edmontosaurus*, *Stegosaurus*, a *Triceratops* skull, and a cast skull of *Protoceratops*.

International researchers are supposed to refuse to conduct research on smuggled fossils. Academic publications have standard policies that do not permit publication of research based on smuggled artefacts.

Thus the secrets of the fossils may remain locked inside museum vaults forever unless the dispute is resolved.

"It is immoral to keep them," said Zhou.

Sex Museum Unveils Rescue Package

Business partners to promote family planning, tourism



"There is nothing shameful about sex in our culture," says Professor Liu Dalin, founder of the Shanghai Sex Museum.

By Xiao Rong

The founder of China's first sex museum has launched a rescue plan to revive the flagging fortunes of his famous Shanghai attraction.

Professor Liu Dalin, a pioneer of sex studies in China, told *Beijing Today* he is cooperating with a Wuhan company to combine his knowledge of ancient China's sex culture with modern guidance on reproductive health care.

The project would create a comprehensive education exhibition ranging from ancient sex culture to sexual health care, publications, sex-related souvenir sales and treatment of sexual diseases.

"Only when the profound ancient sex culture of our country is applied to guide the daily life of modern people, can its charm be fully displayed," said Liu, a retired sociologist of Shanghai University.

"And thus it will be easier for such a practical exhibition to gain governmental support."

Wu Zhaohong, Liu's partner in the newly-opened Hangzhou sex museum, also talked about the importance of gaining support to *Beijing Today*.

"Hangzhou is a famous city with rich historical and cultural resources. We hope the sex museum can become another tourism site alongside others at the West Lake. So getting our museum listed as a local-designated tourism site is a good way," said Wu. He had submitted such a plan this month to Hangzhou government, he said.

"A plan is only a plan," said Professor Liu, "Permission from the government is yet to be decided."

Beijing Today contacted the National Tourism Administration about the plan and an official said, "It's up to the local tourism departments to make such local approvals."

Beijing Today next contacted the State Family Planning Commission. An official declined to comment, say-

ing sex-related issues remain somewhat sensitive in China.

Professor Liu remains confident. "Things have changed a lot since the 1980s," said Professor Liu. "I'm sure society, including our government, will be more open and tolerant. After all, the sex museum has endured the most difficult period."

Hanging in Limbo

"The current situation," said Professor Liu, "is that nobody said 'no' to the museum, nor did anyone say 'yes'."

"In fact, what the museum needs most is encouragement from the government. Only within the atmosphere of a tolerant and free society can our museum win regular visitors."

Liu, 70, runs his beloved sex museum with earnings from his abundant publications, also with a debt of over 300,000 yuan. Local leaders who had visited the museum, said Liu, had commended the cultural and scientific value of his 1,800-exhibit collection.

"But when it comes to the practical problem of allowing the sex museum to be listed as a designated tourism site, no one wants to take that on."

Cooperation with one of China's leading web portals confirmed the pulling power of an official site. On December 3 last year, the Beijing-based website Sina.com cooperated with Professor Liu by moving some of the pictures of his collections onto the Internet.

Online, the museum achieved massive hits. More than 60,000 people filled out an online survey. But that amounts to only one percent of the actual online audience, according to Hou Xiaoliang, the cultural editor of

Sina.com.

The reader's survey showed 58.77% of the 64,319 people support the museum and regard it as a good way of promoting traditional Chinese culture. Only 9.45% think the exhibition is disgusting and harmful.

Shrinking attendances

Reports suggesting Sina's assistance had rescued the museum proved exaggerated.

In September last year, 1,274 visitors came to the museum. In October, that figure was 1,135. In November last year it was the first time the books had been balanced since the museum's opening in 1999 – 1,898 visitors came through the doors buoyed by an extended sympathetic media campaign. There was even a 7,000 to 8,000 yuan surplus that month.

But attendances then plummeted to 796 in December and stand at 554 so far this month. Visitors to the Hangzhou sex museum were also too few for it to break even since its crowded opening on December 15 last year.

"I'm well prepared for temporary losses, but I need to survive, even if it's hard to earn money, for the long-term goal of displaying our country's profound ancient sex culture to modern audiences," said Professor Liu.

Equally committed is his Hangzhou partner Wu. "I'll persist with this project even if it loses money now," he said.

Asked how long he can endure, Wu said this was not up to him. "Sometimes the outside environment can prevent one from achieving one's goal," he said.

Meanwhile in Shanghai

Without official listing or backing, tour groups can not visit the second floor of the two-storey building at 1133 Wuding Road where the Shanghai Sex Museum currently resides.

Reports of its debut in 1999 on Shanghai's most famous commercial street Nanjing Road and its later removal to the current address due to slack business generated countless articles in the media both home and abroad.

To raise extra revenue, the museum has since Friday begun charging 120 yuan for a tour guide on top of the 30-yuan entrance fee.

Due to ill health, Professor Liu seldom guides, but his assistant Hu Hongxia presents vivid stories about the more than 900 pieces of art in the 800-square meter display area.

Lou Shaoming, an engineer from a Hangzhou-based company, approached Professor Liu and asked him to sign a copy of his autobiography during interview.

"The exhibition is really excellent, it opens a new world to me," he said. "I do admire Professor Liu for his courage and perseverance."

Lou asked his picture not appear in the newspaper. "After all," he said "it's embarrassing to let my colleagues learn I have been to the sex museum."

Professor Liu said although China has been well open to sex-related issues since the 1980s, it was like "a half-open door".

"The museum has been mainly suffering from two difficulties. One is economic. Another is the barrier of traditional sex ideas," he said.

"And of course my lack of management strategy was also another reason that led to the predicament of the museum."

Professor Liu said his ultimate goal is to establish permanent funding for his exhibition. "I just want," he said, "this precious knowledge to be inherited by future generations."

Photos by Xiao Rong

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Invitation Letters Waived for Chinese Residents Going Abroad

By Liu Jiewei/Ivy Zhang

Beijing residents are not required to submit invitation letters when applying for a passport to go abroad. This regulation will take effect from February 1 this year as posted by the Beijing Public Security Bureau.

In addition, the issuing of exit registration slips attached to the passport shall be abolished at the same time. The current registration slip will not be renewed or reissued. Frontier inspection authorities will no longer examine that slip. Thus it will be much easier for Chinese

nationals to go abroad for personal purposes.

According to the newly promulgated regulations, Beijing residents, when applying for a passport, are only required to submit Identification Card, residence certificate (Hukou) and approval letter issued

by the employer (with seal). But, for those who apply to go abroad for the following five purposes, namely traveling with a tour group, self-supported study overseas, adopted children going abroad, working in a foreign country or going abroad for cultural exchanges, other relevant

certificates are also needed.

Without translation fees incurred from the invitation letters, passport application procedures will be greatly simplified with the implementation of the new regulations, which will help promote exchanges between China and other countries.

Home-Cloned Calf Meets the World

By Zhao Pu

A village named Wulitun in Cao County in Shandong Province has been the focus of the attention of the country's media and biological scientists during the past two weeks, as the birthplace of China's first home-cloned calf.

The birth of the home-cloned calves marks a giant step in China's advance into the field of cloning technology.

The first calf named 'Weiwei' was born at 9:25pm last Friday, but only survived for 71 minutes and was confirmed dead by scientists on Saturday. The abortive calf was found abnormal in the development of its heart.

The birth of the second cloned calf 'Keke' hours later comforted the disappointed scientists. Keke was born at 3:30pm last Saturday through a Caesarean section but initially had breathing difficulties.

Thankfully, however, Keke made its first 'moo' sound only two minutes after being born and drunk nearly 2 kilograms of milk within half an hour. The calf began walking the next morning after hours of medical treatment by scientists at the Shandong Zhongda Animal Embryo Engineering Center (SZAEEC).

The death of Weiwei was due to the abnormal development of its heart, which later made the calf's blood unable to flow smoothly, said a report publicized by scientists last Saturday.

According to Yu Zhongbo, general manager of the SZAEEC, which carried out the two embryo transplantations, Weiwei's birth was originally scheduled for January 27 but the surrogate mother cow showed signs of giving birth last Friday night. Weiwei's mother gave birth to Weiwei through a Caesarean section. But Yu said that the mother cow had been ill over the past month and had received an infusion, which affected Weiwei's health.

Professors Chen Dayuan and Ma Shiyuan, chief researchers on this cloning-technology project, claimed that the early death and poor physical condition of the cloned calves has nothing to do with



Photo by Jackey

Keke is pulled into the world(up) Keke enjoys milk after birth(down)

the cloning technology.

At the center, ten other pregnant cows, who are part of the scientific experiment, are expected to give birth to cloned calves in the days to come.

Prior to this, cloned cows were born in Shenzhen in South China's Guangdong Province and Laiyang in Shandong Province. Their embryos were all imported from New Zealand however.

Xinhua Photo



Railways Crack Down on False Student ID Cards

By Wang Ling

Three check points have been established by Beijing railways to prevent the increasing abuse of false student ID cards before the peak season of Spring Festival.

Student ID cards will be checked more carefully at ticket windows, before boarding the train, and at station exits.

"Today I have smoked out seven false student ID cards," Cui Liyan, a ticket attendant at Beijing west railway sta-

tion, told the Beijing Today reporter.

Cui is in charge of the second waiting room, which is for soldiers and students. "It is not easy to distinguish the genuine student ID card and the false one", Cui said, "Yesterday I spent one hour memorizing the presidents' names of central academies. When I find a dubious student ID card, I will ask the passenger the president's name. If he or she doesn't know, I will hand him or her over to the police."

Chinese university students enjoy

the privilege of buying train tickets at a 50% discount with their student ID cards during vacations. Spring festival is open season for many false ID card mongers, since the demand for false student ID cards often exceeds supply.

The rampancy of false student ID cards causes the railway system to suffer heavy losses. According to statistics provided by Beijing Railway Station, the average number of tickets sold at each window amounts to 3,000 daily, five every minute at peak times.

Medicines See Prices Slashed

By Shan Jinliang

A medicine for the common cold, Bufferin, disappeared from the market on January 15 when the State Planning Commission ordered the product to cut its price from 7.9 yuan to 1.8 yuan.

The commission reset the prices of 383 kinds of medicines, 80% of which saw a fall in price with the highest cut of 80% for Bufferin from Bristol-Myers Squibb in Shanghai, Tylenol from Johnson & Johnson (China), Panadol from Tianjin-based SK&F. At the same time, Tylenol and Panadol have also disappeared from the market since the regulation was issued last week.

"Pharmacies should not stop selling the medicines in the price-cut list by the state, I think they are avoiding the price cut by not selling them," said a lady who couldn't buy 1.8-yuan Bufferin in a Tuanjihu pharmacy.

"We shall not be blamed and we are not behaving irresponsibly towards society," complained an unnamed chemist from a famous Beijing hospital. "The medicine manufacturers did not cut the price for the hospital though the state has ordered price cuts, and the only approach to avoid the loss is to stop selling the listed medicines," he said.

Both Shanghai Bristol-Myers Squibb and Johnson & Johnson (China) said they couldn't accept the current low price, as they "need a reasonable price to ensure a high quality for the medicine." They said they had handed over an application document to the State Planning Commission and that the result is expected to come out after Spring Festival. The joint venture medicine manufacturers have stopped the sale of the listed medicines in China, apart from Shanghai.

Some joint venture medicine companies invest much more than the local manufacturers, which account for the unacceptable attitude of the Sino-foreign manufacturers, say insiders.

The price cut was to counter the high illegal discount kickback, said an official of the State Planning Commission. "The price cut was made after discussion with experts and was based on the national average medicine price of the same kind. It was intended to lower the wholesale price of the medicines whose factory price and wholesale price or actual price of the medical institutions have big gaps," said the official.

Airport Refreshment Prices Come Down to Earth

By Jiao Pei

Anyone seeking refreshment at Beijing Capital Airport at a reasonable price now has a range of options thanks to better signposting and price cuts. The layout of high and low-priced restaurants will also become more consumer-friendly from March.

The airport has been under the spotlight since economist Mao Yushi wrote a letter to Beijing Youth Daily expressing his dissatisfaction about the extortionately high prices of some foods and drink in the departures lounge. Beijing Youth Daily exposed the 88-yuan cup of coffee and 10-yuan steamed bun as priced way off the scale.

The Beijing Price Bureau sent a group to investigate the airport last September. The results were passed to the State Development and Planning Commission (SDPC) in November. Even before the airport authorities received notification from the SDPC, slight improvements were made: three vending machines and three drinking water fountains were added.

Now altogether there are 11 drinking water fountains, 12 electric hot water machines, and 13 vending machines, which sell cola at 5 yuan per can, according to Cao Runming, manager of the Property Management department of the Capital Airport.

"24 information boards now point people towards inexpensive food. Some higher prices have been lowered to the usual level, and clear price cards must now be put beside the food and beverages," said Cao, "Middle and low priced food has begun to appear on the 3rd floor, with more shops due to open in March. There are currently 38 middle and low priced restaurants among the total 44 restaurants."

The astronomical prices are due partly to the public bidding for renting restaurant space on the 3rd floor of the departures lounge in 1999. To win the bid, restaurants pushed rents through the ceiling, resulting in highly priced products.

A new bidding system will ensure rentals are decided according to the business volume of individual restaurants.

The Beijing Price Bureau sent another investigative group to the airport this Wednesday. Findings are expected to be released in the near future.

Beijing WTO Officials Make Debut

By Yang Xiao

Since the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation set up a new bureau for the entry to WTO at the end of last year, its Beijing branch has also opened a new related department. This Monday the newly named official Zhang Zhiyong presented the department for the first time to the media in Beijing.

Zhang, who holds a PhD from Tsinghua University, revealed that the department so far only has three officials, which are not enough to meet the demand. They all have higher educational degrees.

Zhang further explained that the department is mainly involved with research on WTO, receiving enterprises' complaints and anti-dumping signals and other useful relevant information. The department does not have power to accept this kind of case by itself, but has to refer them to superiors.

Beijing Economy Enters Growth Period

By Xiao Rong

Beijing's per capita GDP reached 25,300 yuan in 2001, an equivalent of \$3060 at current exchange rates, which shows Beijing is now in a period of rapid economic growth.

This was released in the statistical communique on the 2001 national economic and social development of Beijing at Tuesday's press conference sponsored by the Information Office of Beijing Municipal Government.

The statistical communique covered the main figures that reflect the overall development of the macro economy, urban construction, major sectors, foreign economy and trade, social projects and population, employment and people's living standards.

The total value of imports and exports reached \$51.541 billion in 2001, up by 3.9% over the previous year, according to Liu Jigang, director of the Beijing Statistical Bureau.

Liu also attributed the sustained and rapid growth of Beijing's economy last year to the improvement of the local economic environment, the increase of domestic demand and export, and industry restructuring.

Of the total investment of Beijing in 2001, investment from non-state-owned domestic enterprises, foreign-funded enterprises as well as those from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan stood at 77.79 billion yuan, up 46.3%, accounting for 50.8% of the total.

The city approved 1,149 foreign-invested projects in 2001, up 0.1% over the previous year. The contracted foreign capital amounted to \$3.31 billion, up 15%.

Development zones of Beijing have become hotspots for investment by multinationals, with more than 30 corporations among the world's top 500 establishing R&D and production bases in 2001.

BSDM Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Yang Xiao

The Beijing Service for Diplomatic Missions (BSDM) celebrated its 49th anniversary at the St. Regis on Wednesday.

About 270 diplomats from over 150 countries attended the celebrations. Zhang Limin, Director of BSDM, expressed thanks to all diplomatic missions' support at the lunar New Year.

In the 40 years, BSDM has developed a multifunctional service unit in China. It has 7,000 employees and 1.5 million sq.m. of real estate. The service accounts for every part of daily life of diplomatic missions and their employees.

Beijing Trade Deficit Arouses No Concern*By Yang Xiao*

According to the traditional view, a trade deficit indicates poor economic health, but an official from the Beijing Municipal Foreign Economic Relations & Trade Commission said that a trade deficit was no bad thing at an annual press conference this Monday.

Sun Yao, vice-director of the Department of Planning and Accounting revealed that Beijing exported \$11.8 billion and imported \$40 billion in the year of 2001, and that the adverse balance of trade deficit surmounted 28 billion dollars. Sun explained that this is not bad news for Beijingers. For a long time Beijing has acted as a cargo and service center in China. It takes charge of importing core technologies and projects, and then re-produces and passes the products to other cities or provinces.

"In Beijing, Legend needs CPU, Nokia needs core parts for its handsets. This ends up with more imports than exports. We must make a difference between national and local trade deficits. The latter one is not a bad thing," Said Sun.

2001 Top 10 Local Exporting Companies*By Yang Xiao*

Beijing Municipal Foreign Economic Relations & Trade Commission freshly exposed the figures of the top ten Beijing local export companies of 2001 this Monday. It listed the 20 best export companies that amount to \$2.44 billion.

Nokia's two subsidiaries hold positions of No.1 and No.9, respectively 1 billion and 722 million dollars. Ericsson holds No.2, ending up at 240 million dollars. From No. 3 to No.10: Business of Electronics, Beijing Garment I&E, JVC, Mitsubishi-Stone, GE Medical Systems, China Shougang International Trade & Engineering, Nokia Hangxing and Poly Tech.

Microsoft Forms JV to Access Software Market*By Shan Jinliang*

Microsoft made a detour to share China's software market by establishing a joint venture, Censoft, in Zhongguancun with Stone Group and Centeck last Wednesday.

The move was regarded as a new attempt to seize China's software market following Microsoft losing in a recent bidding for a Beijing governmental contract for software with several local manufacturers. It also fits into the strategy of the newly established Great China Zone Strategical Cooperation Department of Microsoft.

Censoft was actually a result of the contract signed by Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and Duan Yongji, president of Centek during his last visit to China. The move was intended to prompt the development of China's independent software enterprises with their own intellectual properties.

Duan will preside the new company as the chairman of the board. Zhu Shiduo, president of Stone Group, will be its president, and Microsoft will recommend a Chief Technological Officer (CTO). Centek possess 51% of the shares, Stone Group 30%, and Microsoft 19%.

Censoft will engage in business and governmental application software with self-owned intellectual property, says Zhu. He hopes to build it into one of the biggest software enterprises in China and a large software service import enterprise.

Coke Faces Can Shortage

Due to an unexpected price hitch by Beijing's three main can makers, Coca-Cola can hardly get through the Spring Festival gold rush for soft drinks

By Yang Xiao

Even the elephant Coke may suffer an attack from ants. From last Friday the Chinese media began to report the conflicts between Coca-Cola and its three can providers.

Reports reveal that a dry-up crisis may possibly have begun ever since the New Year. The three Beijing can providers hope to raise 1.5 cents per unit, if not, they will stop providing cans to their biggest customer.

For the 1.5 cents

Beijing Coca-Cola Beverages PR manager Ren Liang offers some statistics. Beijingers consume 6.5 Coca-colas in 10 of all soft canned drinks in 2001. More than 500 million yuan is spent by Coke on expenditure every year. "The market is really attractive," said Ren.

One of the providers said there are 13 providers nationwide acting together to raise 1.5 cents. Taking one provider, Pacific, as an example, its monthly sales amount to 4 million units, and the monthly income would increase by 600,000 yuan, that is 7.2 million yuan per year, if 1.5 cents extra per can was charged.

An insider argues that the providers have already made a hard decision on raising prices, and that there is little room for negotiation.

The coming Spring Festival

Spring Festival on February 12 will offer a good payoff for drink makers. Coca-Cola needs more cans, which is why the can providers chose the date to ask for the extra 1.5 cents.

Last October the three providers already demanded a price



Coca-Cola tries hard to give the impression that it has plenty of stock in store

Photo by Chen Shuyi

increase, and they succeeded, according to Beijing Evening News. "They did not give us any signals for a second price increase, in fact we are not prepared for the price rise," said Ren Liang.

Beijing Today telephoned the two parties involved. One can provider Pacific said the general

manager had just left on a business trip, the other two providers said the managers were having meetings. Ren Liang also feared the incident would influence the retail market. He tried hard to make it clear that Coca-Cola has plenty of stock in store; the influence will begin after the holi-

day. Coca-Cola has promised to wholesalers and retailers not to raise the price.

Possible solutions

Coca-Cola is looking to other can providers during the negotiations. There are two providers in Shanghai and Zhenjiang respectively that would transport

to Beijing.

On the other hand, Coca-Cola has reported to the China Administration for Industry and Commerce, Beijing Development Area Branch. It is complaining over a possible price monopoly. The administration is carrying out the investigation.

Sharp Takes on Hisense Refrigerators

By Wang Dandan

A refrigerator production contract between Hisense Group and Sharp Corporation arose Japanese leading newspaper Asahi Shimbun's attention, which later commented upon it as a "rare contract".

According to the contract, Sharp will produce refrigerators in the name of Hisense for Hisense group. This differs from the usual process of cooperation between companies of each side. A Japanese company using Chinese low-cost labor to manufacture products with Japanese brands is nothing new however.

Zhou Houjian, chairman of the board of directors of Hisense, said the cooperation was a normal business venture at interview with *Beijing Today*. This stands in stark contrast to the Asahi Shimbun conclusion.

When asked why Hisense choose Sharp as its OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) partner, Zhou compared the cooperation to falling in love, saying that both sides find each other the most suitable partner, thus the agreement was settled.

"Chinese companies have made good progress in terms of technique and we are willing to

cooperate with them, said the director of Sharp. Up to now, Sharp has provided five refrigerator samples to Hisense," said Zhou.

Shanghai Sharp Electronics (SSEC) will be in charge of production. "We are trying to promote the forced-air cooling technique in China, and this needs a domestic company's help like Hisense," said Zhang Yuguang, director of Press Department of SSEC, "Besides, we are confident about the future development of Hisense."

"We have to rely on Hisense to squeeze into the Chinese mar-

ket," Zhang added.

Hisense chose Sharp to produce refrigerators to allow for the lack of refrigerators in the company, Zhou told reporters. At present, Hisense doesn't have its own refrigerator production line. However, this cooperation does not necessarily mean Hisense will not have a line in the future, Zhou added.

We are also planning to have more foreign companies to produce other types of products for Hisense, Zhou said.

This is standard commercial behavior for enterprises, said Lu Ning, researcher at the Institute

of Industrial Economics, at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. But this also reveals that Chinese home appliance companies have reached international standards in certain areas.

Hisense is not the only example of allowing foreign companies manufacture its product: Beiren Group Company, famous for printing machine products, is cooperating with Japanese TSK, which will manufacture products for the group. This reflects that Chinese companies are gradually developing products by authorizing production to foreign companies.

The Sun brothers now run the hottest hangouts of Beijing's upwardly mobile young professionals

Smiling Sun over Starbucks & TGI Friday's

education.

"Good habits from my youth can be extended to future life principles in working for Starbucks." Although his brother Andrew is also a successful businessman, both brothers insist they were never competitors and rarely talk about business.

David Sun toured McDonald's in the U.S. in 1978, and the modern management system behind the famous food chain lured him to introduce the chain to Taiwan. Soon the golden arches appeared in Taiwan and then in Fuzhou, Xiamen and Beijing.

David has a good luck motto of "Happy Birthday", which he has been redefined as "happy every day."

"I am an optimistic man," David said, "and I like the smell of Starbucks, which makes me feel relaxed." David also said he would never do something he disliked, and sipping coffee is one of the most relaxing and happiest things in the world.

When relating to a report about light criticism of Starbucks' service by Beijing Evening News, David regards it as a very severe problem and said he ordered the copies of the article to be posted in every branch in Beijing. He vowed not to open more branches if the service quality could not achieve high standards.

He said the customers would lose con-

fidence in Starbucks if the qualities of different coffees varied too enormously. David opened his first Starbucks branch on January 1, 1999, and the 28th one on December 22, 2001.

When asked to talk about his stories, Andrew Sun says he is a man of no stories; when asked to talk about himself, Andrew suggests we talk about business.

Andrew Sun is a typical American General Manager of T.G.I. Friday's, and is in charge of three Friday's restaurants in Beijing.

Studying Administration of Justice in the American University, Andrew worked as an international businessman. "I have never thought it was a pity to abandon my original major," Andrew said in his T.G.I. Friday's on the 3rd East Ring Road, "I just choose what I like when an opportunity comes my way."

He little thought he would be running Friday's in Beijing when he first sampled their fare in the U.S. in the 1970s.

Andrew worked for Taiwan McDonald's as the General Manager from 1984 to 1994, alongside his brother David. In 1995, Andrew and David came to Beijing to start up the first TGI Friday's. The second and third branches opened in 1998 and 2001



Photo by Huang Liang

respectively. In 1999, David broke the family team by going his own way to float the Starbucks Coffee ship.

Andrew said he only worked as a manager responsible to the investors and the board of directors. "I do not want to be a man of fame but a leader of a team," he said.



It was real news when American style Starbucks entered the Forbidden City last year. A visitor enjoys a coffee and the view

Photo by Jackey

Expats in Zhongguancun Granted Entry-Exit Benefits

By Liu Jiewei/Ivy Zhang

Foreign high-tech professionals and senior management personnel along with their accompanying relatives in Zhongguancun will be granted foreigner residence permits with a term ranging from one year to three years.

This is one of the six benefits all Chinese and foreign high-tech and management staff based in

Zhongguancun Science Park will enjoy in terms of entry-exit beginning from February 1 this year, according to the Beijing Public Security Bureau.

Multiple entry-exit visas can also be granted within the corresponding term. When permits or visas expire, they can be renewed.

For any foreigners who make an investment of more than

\$10,000,000, foreigner residence permits with a term of five years and corresponding multiple entry-exit visas can be granted, including accompanying relatives. A copy of business license and capital verification report needs to be presented.

Those who make entry into China with a tourist or visitor's visa can apply for a work visa by presenting a certificate issued by

the employer.

Those who have arrived in China in emergency without applying for a visa abroad can get their visa at Beijing Capital Airport. A certificate issued by Management Committee of Zhongguancun Science Park should be presented.

Those traveling to Hong Kong or Macao on business can be granted with different types of

valid visa comments, namely one trip for 15 days and multiple trips for three months, one year or three years. When applying for visa comments, there's no limit on the amount of an enterprise's tax payment and export value.

All such personnel can apply for a variety of urgent entry-exit certificates, based on the principle that urgent situations take priority.

AIA to Offer Service in the Capital Soon

By Zhao Hongyi

AIA, American International Assurance Company Ltd., promised to provide service to Beijing customers in the first half of this year.

Mr. Xu Zhengguang, vice president of AIA and director general of AIA Shanghai branch made the promise during an interview with local media this week in Beijing.

Under the flagship of American International Group, Inc. (AIG), AIA is the Group's life insurance company covering Southeast Asia.

AIG obtained market access approval from China's central government last month. AIA takes full advantages of the opportunity and ready to start business in the capital, though they showed a quite modest and self-controlled position in front of their rivals and mass media in Beijing.

"We know that in Beijing there are a number of Chinese life insurance providers like China Life Insurance, PICC (The People's Insurance of China), Ping An Insurance, Tai Kang Life, CPIC Life (China Pacific Insurance) and New China Life. And all of them have been faring quite well in the market.

"But we still want to present ourselves to customers in Beijing and give them more choice," said Mr. Xu.

"Competition is inevitable. At the same time, we are not coming here to drive anyone of these forerunners out of the market. Instead, we want to make the pie big enough for all of us to share."

Taiping Life Takes on Beijing Market

Yuan Zujin/Jiao Pei

Taiping Life Insurance has started business in Beijing since last December 31 after obtaining a certificate for operating business and selling insurance policies to the public last November.

Taiping Life is one of the oldest national insurance companies. It was founded in Shanghai in 1929. By the end of the 1940's, there were over 990 institutions overseas. In 1995, due to policy regulation, the domestic business of Taiping was halted. Last November, Taiping Life gained the instrument of ratification from the China Insurance Supervisory Commission. The Beijing branch also gained the permit to operate insurance business in Beijing from Liu Jingsheng, director of Beijing Insurance Supervisory Office.

Taiping Life shoulders the responsibility to join the post-WTO entry competition and invent a modern operating system for state-owned insurance companies.

The vice general manager of the Beijing branch, Xie Zhong, is confident about competing in the capital's market. He believes its superiorities are a modern system, strong investment, high-level experienced management personnel from Ping An Insurance, as well as years of experience of operating insurance business overseas.



The first declared Opel cars imported in 2002 have sold well in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu and Hangzhou.

At the Jingguang Center in Beijing's Central Business District, employees of Tianyu Xiangxing Auto Trade Company have set up a promotion poster, on which the emblem of Opel has been transformed into a big exclamation mark implying the dramatic fall in price of imported cars after China's WTO entry.

Xinhua Photo/Text by Jiang Zhong



Ms. Solveig Strand, Norwegian Vice Minister of Fisheries, together with Mr. Svein Berg, managing director of the Norwegian Seafood Export Council, unveiling the Norwegian-Chinese joint dish, delicious salmon prepared in traditional Chinese style at the campaign on January 23

Photo by Qu Liyan

Welcome! Norwegian Salmon

By Zhao Hongyi

Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik visited China this week for the first time of his term. Norwegian salmon once again became a hot topic in the capital, at least in the media and restaurants.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by a business delegation of 130 persons, representing more than 80 Norwegian companies. China is currently Norway's second largest trading partner in Asia, although Norwegian industries and business communities are expecting China to climb higher on the list. These companies were from the maritime, telecommunications industries, or involved in environment protection and regeneration, banking, fisheries and fish farming.

Norwegian Seafood Export Council organized a public Norwegian salmon promotion campaign in Beijing, accounting for a large part of the Prime Minister's itinerary.

Ms. Solveig Strand, Vice Minister of Fisheries, together with Mr. Svein Berg, managing director of the Norwegian Seafood Export Council,

hosted a grand dinner for Chinese seafood businessmen, restaurant managers and media reporters on January 22. The occasion was conceived as a venue for giving Chinese a chance to learn more about Norwegian salmon.

And it worked.

Norwegian salmon grabbed the attention of Beijing's fish handling business, fish farming industry, mass media and public. The Norwegian salmon industry is hoping for another surge in exports, topping the record high of last year.

In the first nine months of last year, bilateral trade amounted to NOKs 11 billion (Norwegian Kroner, approximately \$ 900 million), said Mr. Harald Naevdal, commercial counselor of the Norwegian Embassy in Beijing, to reporters.

"Seafood exports are an important part of our exports," Mr. Berg told Beijing Today at the dinner.

"Last year, we exported 400 thousand metric tons of salmon to the global market, earning NOKs 10 billion (more than \$ 950 million). Of these exports, 4,000 metric tons went

to the Chinese mainland, totaling NOKs 60 million (nearly \$ 7 million)," Mr. Berg said.

Impressive statistics lead Norwegian industries and business communities to entertain greater expectations regarding China's market.

"Exports occupy a strategic importance for a small country with a population of just over four million. That's without saying that the country has a long history in trading," Ms. Strand stated in her speech.

After several years of market exploration, the Norwegians have found the best way to establish a presence in China. A number of fish trading joint ventures like Pan Marine ASA in Shanghai, and fish farming joint ventures like Refa in Qingdao and Supreme Seafood™ in Zhejiang, have been set up and in operation for years.

Chinese enjoy salmon from Norway due to its high quality. Those at the dinner joked with their Norwegian fellows that it is time to add salmon to their country's national flag.

Beijing to Host World Toilet Summit

By Jiang Zhong

Beijing will host the World Toilet Summit 2004 on January 16.

The first World Toilet Summit was held by Singapore on 19-21 November 2001. Yu Changjiang, President of Beijing Tourism Administration, spoke on the conference on behalf of Chinese delegation. In his presentation, he shared the three-year plan on the improvement of Beijing's toilets, conforming to four-star criteria, and meeting tourists' needs.

Beijing submitted an application for hosting the World Toilet Summit 2004 at the conference. After serious discussion and on-the-spot investigation, the World Toilet Organization finally certified Beijing's application.

According to the agreement, Beijing would refit 741 toilets in its 148 popular scenic spots in three years. This year, 250 of them would be refitted.

Electrolux Aimes to Further Open China's Market

By Jiao Pei

Electrolux, the world's largest producer of home appliances, presented its newest ion washing machine last week in Beijing's Kerry Center.

Electrolux aims to further open China's market by producing new type ion washing machines. Electrolux re-entered the Chinese market in 1987, establishing a presence with refrigerators. In 1999, the company introduced washing machines and air-conditioners. Electrolux had never produced air-conditioners before coming to the Chinese market.

Electrolux has always been famous for its refrigerators. This sudden change to washing machines suggests Electrolux has completed its "trilogy" in China by its refrigerators, air-conditioners and washing machines and opening factories in Changsha, Nanjing and Hangzhou.



Photo by Zhuang Jian

Ping An & Chubb Jointly Launch New Insurance Product

By Zhao Hongyi

China's Ping An Insurance Company, together with the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies from the United States, launched the first ever Directors & Officers (D&O) Liability Insurance product in Beijing this week.

D&O policies insure against suits for damages by "wrong acts", like mistakes or omissions (including breaches of duties) that directors and officers of listed companies may be confronted with.

Chubb Group is a U.S. based property and liability insurer. It has a business presence around the world and is famous for its professional expertise and new products design.

Ping An, based in Shenzhen, has been active in adopting international standard management practice and launching new insurance products in the domestic insurance market.

"Over the years, Ping An has been committed to bringing out new products and services," stated Ma Mingzhe, chairman and CEO of Ping An, at the launching ceremony held on January 23.

"We'll continue to do so in the future and hold our status as a pioneer in the industry."

The two companies hope their newly launched insurance products will contribute to the standardization of the country's securities market and play a role in protecting individual investors in the market.

Bertelsmann Expands Business in China

By Shan Jinliang

Bertelsmann established a joint venture printing company in Shanghai on Monday, which signals that the global media group is enlarging its business in China.

Thomas Middelhoff, the Chairman and CEO, signed a letter of intent with Shanghai Packing Group and Shanghai Printing Group on establishing a joint venture after his trip to Beijing last Friday.

Although a report by Beijing Evening News said that the company would invest in bookstores and then fully enter the Chinese market, Ji Hanbin, PR manager of Bertelsmann Shanghai fully denied such a possibility.

"It is unreliable to say Bertelsmann will enter into bookstore sales as we did not even have such a plan. We only specialize in book clubs and online sales.

"It is not accurate to say Bertelsmann will fully enter Chinese market as we are only investing in the printing industry. The policy is still not open enough to allow Bertelsmann to fully invest in the market and we cannot frame a full-scale strategy," Ji said.

"It (the joint venture) will enable us to enter the printing sector and it is a good expansion of our current operation in China," said Mr. Middelhoff.

Bertelsmann will take a 50% stake in the new joint venture while the

other two Chinese companies take the remaining 50% share. The first phase investment will reach \$29 million, and the total investment is said to be about \$100 million. The printing project will provide printing services for books, magazines, newspapers and the packing materials business, and is expected to become one of the largest of its kind in China, according to a document from Bertelsmann.

Bertelsmann has established about ten solely-owned or joint venture companies in China, with business ranging from book clubs, Internet bookstores, business consulting, logistics and supply chain management and information technology services since it entered China seven years ago.

Overseas Travel Taking off

By Zeng Peng

Traveling abroad, once a distant dream for most Chinese is becoming an increasingly popular holiday option.

It is estimated that over 75% of Chinese tourists planning to travel overseas in the coming Spring Festival will visit Southeast Asia on seven-day package tours costing no more than five thousand yuan.

According to China Interna-

tional Travel Service (CITS), some 5,000 people have made bookings with the agency to travel abroad and to Hong Kong & Macao during this holiday season, an increase of 20% over last year.

Xiu Malin, assistant manager of Shen Zhou Travel Agency, says around 4,000 tourists have registered to travel abroad this Spring Festival, 30% up on last year, one third of whom are head-

ing for Southeast Asia.

But the big jump in overseas travel has not been accompanied by soaring prices. According to estimations by several major travel agencies in Beijing, the price increases for traveling abroad during Spring Festival have fluctuated within a narrow range.

Dun Jidong from China Travel Agency says price increases have mainly affected routes to

Southeast Asia, but only by 300 to 500 yuan on average, much less than the 500 to 1000 yuan increases seen last year.

Meanwhile airline companies are gearing up to meet the increased demand. Air China is scheduling an extra 500 flights over the holiday period, and at the same time, increasing its carrying capacity by using larger planes on key routes.

Walkie-talkie Chat

By Sun Ming

Walkie-talkies are proving popular gadgets with Beijingers since the Ministry of Information Industry lifted a ban on their sale in December last year.

Walkie-talkies, or two-way radios are a communication device that can be used by two or more people within a distance of up to three kilometers. They are small and light, weighing only about 90 grams, and can run on a 0.5 watt power supply.

According to Xidex Science and Technology Square, they have sold nearly 30 sets of walkie-talkies since the ban was lifted. Buyers are mainly staff of stores, song and dance halls, private companies, or people just trying to keep up with the latest trends.

A pair of walkie-talkies costs about 1,500 yuan, and unlike mobile phones, doesn't require a subscription fee or payment of phone bills. Also, more than two people can communicate at the same time using walkie-talkies.

According to an employee of Motorola, who also manufacture walkie-talkies, "As long as the users are within three kilometers of each other, the signals are usually good, so they are very convenient for people visiting or living in mountainous areas."



Testing a new walkie-talkie
Photo by Chen Shuyi

Mental Health Probe

By Su Wei

The World Health Organization (WHO) has completed its Mental Health Survey in Beijing.

It is the first time WHO has conducted such a survey in Beijing. It is estimated more than 5,000 city dwellers aged between 18 and 70 were given questionnaires. All the subjects were randomly selected from 50 of the city's 4,000 residential communities. The comprehensive questions covered issues ranging from childhood, work, family and social communication to medicine abuse, sexual problems and the relevant medical services available.

According to Yan Jie, Project Manager of the World Mental Health Survey, the survey took less than 40 days to complete in Beijing, and fewer than 2% of the surveyed refused to answer the questions.

"Some people still hesitate in talking to a stranger about some personal problems, such as marriage experience and feelings about a relative's death," said Yan.

About 90 interviewers took part in the survey, most of whom were in their thirties or older. The results of the survey will be released by the Ministry of Health later this year.



The Largest Tangka in the World

The Great Tangka of Tibetan Art and Culture of China, the largest Tangka in the world, is on display in the *Chinese Tibetan Art and Culture Month*, at the Henderson Center in Beijing. It is 618 meters long, 2.5 meters wide and weighs more than one ton. The exhibition that opened last Friday also features performances of traditional songs and dances of Tibet as well as exhibitions of Tibetan photographs and paintings.

Photo by Cheng Tieliang

Damaged Mercedes to Be Examined in Beijing

By Chen Ying

A Mercedes Benz owned by Wuhan Safari Park (WSP) arrived in Beijing last week in order to undergo inspection at the order of the All-China Consumers Committee (ACCC).

After being repaired five times (four times in Wuhan and once in Beijing) by Mercedes, the SLK230 model still displayed many problems in its power, computer and electronics systems. Although Mercedes insists that these problems are a result of WSP using the wrong sort of fuel, WSP believes the car itself faulty.

Frustrated with their inability to obtain a satisfactory resolution to the case, WSP let five employees hit the car with hammers in front of reporters and public on December 26 last year. Such extreme methods caught the attention of the media. Then ACCC was charged with investigating and mediating the case at

the end of last year.

Two days before the car arrived in Beijing, Mercedes issued a statement via the ACCC, calling on WSP to apologize publicly for its unnecessary and damaging behavior to Mercedes. The statement reiterated Mercedes' position that it was not respon-

sible for the problems caused by WSP's treatment of the car.

Liu Yueling, secretary of WSP's chairman, who is in Beijing awaiting the investigation result, says it's impossible to apologize to Mercedes because she doesn't think WSP has done anything wrong in this case.



Photo by Cui Jun



Photo by Sun Ming

Lottery Ticket Collector

By Sun Ming

For many Beijingers, the dream making a fortune overnight with a lottery win is sufficient incentive to keep them buying lottery tickets week after week, month after month.

For some however, the appeal lies not so much in the possibility of a windfall, but in the collectability of the tickets.

58-year-old Su Ligen is a collector of lottery tickets. He started collecting in 1987 when the first batch of lottery tickets was issued in China. Up to now, he has purchased more than 20,000 lottery tickets. His collection includes eighty percent of all the different types of lottery tickets issued in China.

"It's very interesting to appreciate my own collection in my spare time," says Su, who has been collecting things since he was 12 years old.

Before collecting lottery tickets, Su collected stamps, matchbox pictures and all kinds of coupons. He says the coupons are witness to the development of China. Before China's reform and opening up, people had to use coupons to buy commodities that were in short supply, under controlled distribution, such as rice, flour, oil, cloth and coal.

With the issue of the first lottery tickets in 1987, Su decided they would make an ideal subject for collecting. "Because I wanted to collect something that receives little attention," he said. "The numbers of people who collect stamps and match boxes is enormous in China."

Besides, Su said his work was an advantage for collecting. Before he retired, he was section chief in charge of selling, so he often traveled. "It was convenient for me to buy lottery tickets in other cities," said Su.

Also, Su loves sports. In China, there are two main kinds of lotteries: one is instituted for the purpose of rais-

ing funds for sports; the other raises funds for welfare.

According to Su, he once wrestled with Zhuang Zedong, a table tennis world champion in the 1960's. "At that time, we were both middle school students," said Su, "I like sports very much." Perhaps this is the reason that 58-year-old Su looks much younger than his real age.

Like stamps, lottery tickets are usually issued by series. However it's quite difficult to collect lottery tickets. In order to collect a complete series, Su often has to go to many different places to buy them.

So far, Su has invested more than 10,000 yuan in his hobby, and his investment has seen some return. The largest prize he has won is 2,000 yuan. But for many lotteries, the prizes are not money but merchandise, so Su has gained many cups, basins, saucepans and various pieces of hardware. "My family is never short of such things," he says with a smile, "Winning a prize is certainly a happy thing, but I don't take it to heart."

Su also exchanges lottery tickets with other collectors, as a means of gaining the ones he needs. He is not only a member of the Beijing Association of Lottery Tickets Collectors, founded in 2000, but also belongs to related associations in other cities. "I often correspond with other collectors. I can receive more than four hundreds letters from them per month."

According to Su, there are some 800,000 lottery ticket collectors in China. Most of them live in southern China. There are only fifty or so in Beijing.

From January last year, Su set up a stand in Baoguoqi Culture Plaza where he sold some spare lottery tickets. The stand soon became an active center for lottery ticket collectors, who meet there to exchange information or their extra lottery tickets.

Daughter Sues Father for Trademark Infringement

By Sun Ming

A restaurant at Shuang'an, in the northwestern Beijing, operating under the name Jiutouniao (九头鸟) has been compelled to take down the widely recognized sign by the Haidian Industrial & Commercial Bureau.

According to Yang Jing, section chief of the bureau, the restaurant infringed the trademark right of Jiutouniao Chain Restaurant.

What makes the case unusual is that the owner of the restaurant in question, Zhou Tiema, is father of the president of the Jiutouniao Chain, Zhou Hong.

Zhou Hong set up her first Jiutouniao restaurant in a Hutong near the Friendship Hotel in 1995. Jiutouniao, which means nine-headed bird, is a legendary bird in her home province of Hubei.

The restaurant soon gained a reputation for its delicious Hubei style cuisine, and another branch in Hangtianqiao soon followed. In 1998 her father Zhou Tiema, a former policeman, came to Beijing

with her mother. "My mother and I took charge of the new restaurant," says Zhou Hong, "and my father ran the original one."

However, by fraudulent means, Zhou Tiema made himself the juridical person of the restaurant he managed. "I was shocked then," said Zhou Hong, "My father made the change without any discussion with me."

Zhou Hong said that she contacted her father, but he didn't want to talk with her. However later that year, under mediation of the Haidian Industrial and Commercial Bureau, the two sides came to an agreement.

According to the agreement, the father obtained the first Jiutouniao restaurant and a branch restaurant founded in April 1998; the daughter and the wife owned the branch restaurant located in Hangtianqiao and the trademark right of Jiutouniao. Even though, the father's two restaurants could retain the name Jiutouniao.

However, Zhou Tiema then set up another two branches of Jiutouniao in January and March 1999 respectively. "His action really infringed the trademark right of Jiutouniao," according to Cheng Xuan, of the Beijing Jingdu Law Office, Zhou Hong's lawyer.

After intervention from a family friend, Zhou Tiema came to an agreement with Zhou Hong under which the two new branch-restaurants could keep using the Jiutouniao trademark.

However in November last year, Zhou Tiema breached this agreement, and without gaining a business license, he even intended to set up a new Jiutouniao restaurant again last Wednesday.

At the request of Zhou Hong, representatives from the Haidian Industrial & Commercial Bureau then ordered Zhou Tiema to remove the trademark of Jiutouniao.

Now Zhou Tiema has changed the names of the new

restaurant and the two other branch restaurants to Jiutouying Restaurant (九头鹰). Jiutouying means nine-head-eagle. "Jiutouying will certainly beat Jiutouniao, because an eagle flies much higher than a bird," he said.



Zhou Hong

Photo by Sun Ming

Living on a Knife Edge

Relatives accept extra liability for risky surgery

By Chen Ying

A 76-year-old woman has made Beijing medical history by becoming the first city patient to receive notarized surgery.

Zhang Sujiang had her cataract operation at the Eye Hospital of the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Shijingshan District of Beijing last year after her family signed a notarized legal document accepting responsibility for the extra high risk.

She had had the cataract for years, but her eyesight had deteriorated suddenly. Zhang asked for an operation. Doctors diagnosed her as suffering from hypertension and coronary heart disease. Thus, the hospital surgeons deemed the risks of complications as too high. They declined to operate.

Almost blind, Zhang passionately insisted on having the operation. Her relatives backed her up, agreeing they would not blame the hospital if surgery backfired. Thus on September 18, both sides signed the first surgical notarization in Beijing history at Shijingshan Notary Office.

The notarization recorded the patient's general physical condition, medical examination results when she entered the hospital, the diagnosis and the type of surgery. The most important issue was to define the boundaries of liability of the two sides.

The day after the signing, the hospital performed surgery on Zhang's left eye (it's too dangerous to do both eyes at once). Two months later, Zhang had recovered not just her eyesight, but her capability to look after herself in her own home.

In fact in Beijing, patients and hospitals always sign consent documents before dangerous surgery. But the difference here is in the detail and the legal assignments of liability.

Is it proper to adopt notarization for surgery? Will this reduce conflicts between hospitals and patients when things go wrong? Opinions follow:

Ji Kunfeng, Zhang Sujiang's daughter

My mother suffers from at least six severe illnesses. But she insisted she would have surgery whatever happened. To improve her quality of life, we had to go this way.

I would not have bothered the hospital if the doctor tried his best and the surgery failed. I think it's a good means for patients who really want to relieve their suffering when no other means are available. Otherwise, the doctor would not dare risk doing the surgery.

Feng Jun, doctor, surgeon to Zhang Sujiang

Similar surgical notarizations occurred in Wuhan, Tianjin and Shanghai. The patients involved usually had a severe illness making it dangerous to operate.

Patients often have rather high expectations of doctors to heal their wounds. They would rather think doctors exaggerate the risks when doctors tell them or a relative what might happen during surgery. But patients and relatives can't accept the fact when surgery fails or complications occur after the operation.

They think it rings false of doctors, that they lack proper consideration. That may be one of the reasons why there is so much dissent between patients and doctors these days. So I thought this idea would protect both sides.

I think this case is special. It's better not to expand the idea. I think people can adopt notarization only when patients are suffering from a severe illness, when the surgery is too dangerous, when the success rate of the surgery is low, when the patients insist on sur-



Dr. Feng Jun performs surgery

Photo by Li Xiangquan

gery and when that surgery can be successful through doctors' efforts. In such circumstances, this action benefits both sides. The goal is to reasonably share the medical risks between doctors and patients.

Wang Xincheng, lawyer, Huaye Law Firm

Some behavior can become legally effective only after it is notarized according to some laws. But for a great number of cases, only one party requires notarization. The party can make the notarization when other parties agree.

For this case, it's the doctor who requires the notarization. Whether the document, which the patients and doctors have signed, has legal effect doesn't rely on whether some relevant administrator notarizes it. It's also looked upon as illegal if it breaks the law.

It's reasonable to apply notarization if surgery fails due to the pa-

tient's poor health. The patient and the relatives can still sue the doctor if the failure is the doctor's fault.

Dai Zhengwen, lawyer, Beijing Zhonghong Law Firm

It's worth advocating this idea because patients and doctors sign the surgical notarization willingly. Plus it's beneficial to both sides and doesn't do any harm to the country or society.

After signing the notarization, doctors can perform surgery without any fears and patients get the chance to cure their illness if the surgery is successful. Many previous taboos will be conquered if this type of surgery becomes popular and permitted. It will hasten medical development, improve doctors' techniques and be useful to many other patients.

But that doesn't mean one needs to do a notarization before every operation. The agreement documents,

signed between patients and hospitals before surgery, also own legal effect.

Bruce Beattie, doctor, International SOS

All operations have a risk of death or complications. People tend to focus on the immediate problem they have and forget all the other medical conditions that the doctor giving the anesthetic to the patient has to consider.

The definition of failed surgery is very difficult. For example, in this case the lady wanted her vision back and believed that removing the cataract would return her vision. In fact, she may have had macular degeneration, for which there is no effective treatment. Then after removing the cataract if there was no improvement in her vision, it is not the doctor's fault. It is an unrealistic expectation on behalf of the patient to then call the surgery "failed".

In western countries, it is standard practice that the patient has signed a consent form for the operation and that they fully understand the complications and outcomes of surgery, but generally this does not involve a statutory declaration or notarization.

I think this notarization won't reduce conflicts between hospital and patients if operations fail, as people will still be unhappy with the result. This can be because of unrealistic expectations on behalf of the patient or the surgeons not using the best available method. This is where there are disagreements between specialists and the issues that get very clouded sometimes.

I am from Australia and patients in the case of failed surgery will attempt to sue the doctors and the final decision is made in court about the need for compensation for the patient or not.

SOUND BITES

"We are happy with the results of the conference. I also hope the pledges that were made by the international community are made true immediately in the coming days. We are almost beginning from scratch. It's an endless list of misery for Afghans."

— **Hamid Karzai, the leader of Afghanistan's interim government, at the Tokyo conference on Afghanistan's future**

"It has become increasingly clear that employees and retirees were sacrificed for their own personal gain. Enron executives let us down, the auditors let us down, Wall Street analysts let us down and the companies lending the money to Enron let us down. But at the end of the day, when the dust settles, who has the greatest pain and greatest losses? We do."

— **Janis Farmer, a former administrator in Enron who retired last year**

"People are totally disillusioned. They have nothing against the police but have lost faith in their investigation. With these decisions, the police are only tinkering with it – same investigation team, same obstacles – and unless there is some 11th-hour miracle I don't think they will settle for anything less than a full public inquiry."

— **Michael Gallagher, who lost his son, Adrian, 21, in the Omagh, Northern Ireland, bomb blast, criticizes the investigation**

By Chen Ying

北京青年报
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Young and Old Seeking Mutual Understanding

By Su Wei

China's population is aging. By 2040, it is estimated that 0.38 billion people, or 25% of the current total population will be over 60.

What sort of relationship do elderly parents have with their grownup children? What does filial piety mean in today's society? What differences exist between young people and their parents in their attitudes towards these and other questions?

Recently the China Association for the Aged conducted a survey among over 12,000 old and young people in 31 provinces and autonomous regions to find out their attitudes towards these and other questions.

Young people: Understand parents' needs

84% of the surveyed young people say they don't mind listening to their parents talking about the past, 78% make a point of buying their parents favorite food and 73% know the type and dosage of the medicines their parents usually take.

However nearly 50% say they seldom spend Spring Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival and the Double Ninth Festival (Chinese Old People's Festival) with their parents, though they know their parents expect them to do so.

The figures suggest that the gap between the young and old may not be as great as is widely perceived, and traditional ideas of respect and concern for the elderly still seem to influence most young people, at least to some degree.

However the survey also highlights the increasing pressure young people are under to balance the demands of career and the extended family.

Young people: Depend on parents' help

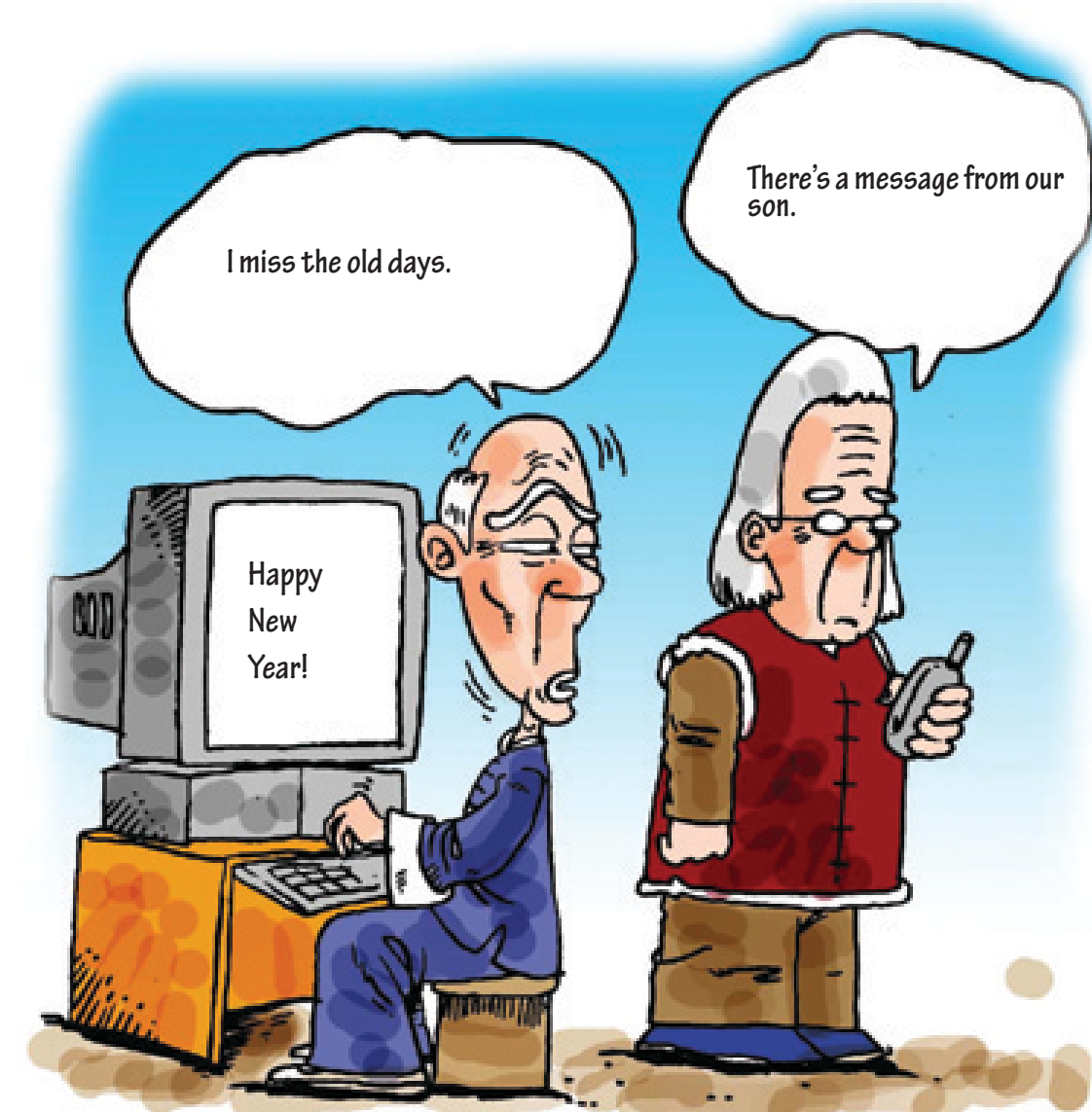
Nearly 85% of the surveyed youth say their parents being in good health is the best support for them to concentrate on their work, followed by 42% who expect their parents to take care of the grandchildren.

This may simply reflect an economic concern. If the elderly parents fall ill, a son or daughter might have to ask for leave to take care of them. Though it is natural for young people to look after their parents, it takes time and money.

Grandparents caring for grandchildren has long been a tradition in China.

Although some educators argue that grandparents are more likely to pamper and spoil children, it is often simply cheaper and easier for a young couple to enlist the grandparent's help, than find a suitable nanny.

Meanwhile, many old people enjoy the sense of involvement and belonging looking after a grandchild brings.



Picture by Xie Feng

Young people: Respect the old traditionally

99% of the surveyed young people say it is an obligation for grownup children to take care of elderly parents. But 49% say that family happiness is not simply a matter of living together.

Many young people place more importance on independence and personal freedom than perhaps their parents did. Meanwhile, some young people tend to think living with parents results in more quarrels, due to differing opinions on certain issues.

Xie Hua, a bank employee says her father cannot bear the fact that one of her friends lives with her boyfriend.

Neither does she like her father playing Chinese chess with other old people at home. "There is no use trying to change our way of life. We tried to persuade each other. But everyone is not happy."

She now rents an apartment and spends weekends with her parents. "There are no quarrels now. My father gets together with his friends, and is happy to see me too. I am happy too."

Young people: Needs parents' understanding

73% of the surveyed say they hope that their parents could understand that they have to spend an increasing amount of time on their career, at the cost of keeping their parents company.

However, 75% disagreed with the statement, "Young people make up for staying with their parents by working hard to earn money."

It suggests that most young people, while wanting a degree of independence, do not want to cut all ties with their parents.

Meanwhile given the choice, many young people would spend more time with their parents if they were able.

Zhu Guoquan, a software designer feels guilty about spending so little time with his parents. "This year it is very hard for those working in the IT sector. I have to work very hard in order not to be laid off."

Old people: Prefer living alone

50% of the old people surveyed say they like living alone. Half of those say they prefer to live in the same community as their children, half don't mind living in a different community.

37% of the surveyed old people say their pension is sufficient to live on. 60% of the total say if their pension is insufficient, they would be unwilling to tell their children directly, as that would place an added burden.

Li Wenxian, a former director of the Television and Broadcasting Bureau of Haidian District, lives alone with his wife on a little less than 1,500 yuan per month. He admits that they cannot afford meat

and fish every meal.

But they seldom discuss finances with their son and never ask him for money. "He also needs money to support his family. Our granddaughter will go to university this year. That needs money!"

Old people: Concern about their children

71% of the elderly people surveyed say they will do anything they can to help their children. 69% say they would like to know more about their children's study and work. 43% say family reunion during holiday periods is their chief family concern.

Many parents, no matter how old they are, feel their children are always their re-

sponsibility. For many, being able to help their children increases their sense of self worth.

Furthermore, old people may try to share their children's interests, and discuss issues they see to be of concern.

Su Dehai, a director of Beijing Commercial and Industrial Administration Bureau admits she has concerns about her daughter's frequently changing her jobs, "I once tried to persuade her to find a stable job, but she said she was happy. I see really she lives a happy life!"

Old people: Try to maintain their dignity

73% of the old people surveyed say the hardest thing for them to bear is their children talking back to them, followed by their children frequently asking for money (61%) and occupying their houses (59%).

This reflects the traditional idea of the parents, especially the father, being head of the household. Furthermore, parents usually hope they will not have to spend their last years worrying about having enough to eat and keeping a roof over their heads, having invested so much in their children.

Wu Hua, once sued her son, who transferred their house to his own name, after having bought an apartment without telling her. "It is I who brought him up when his father died. But if I had any other choice, I would never have taken him to court." Although Wu won the case, she feels the pain it caused her might never leave her.

Old people: Comment highly on themselves

88% of the old people surveyed say they lead a thrifty and simple life, 67% consider themselves to be optimistic and fair, and 66% are proud of their rich experience.

It suggests that old people may have adjusted well in the face of rapid social change and are trying to depend less on their children and grandchildren. Meanwhile, they may

have also understood that having a good outlook is important to keep good health. With good health, they will not bring much trouble to their busy children.

However, those high opinions may also come from their fearing helpless. Wang Min, a researcher at a scientific institute, once became depressed because his grown up son was less willing to spend time talking with him. "When he was young, he was proud to say 'My father said'"

Now Wang realizes that his son has his own ideas and they have less in common. He is determined to reorient his life, "I am old and may have been left behind by society. But I never should look down on myself!"

Old people: Seek their entertainment

92% of the old people surveyed have their favorite activities in daily life, including watching TV (54%), walking (43%) and chatting (38%). Meanwhile, 34% are resuming studies in universities for the aged, followed by 25% learning computer skills, 23% learning dancing and 11% spending time online.

The variety of self-entertainment shows that the elderly are creating a completely new way of life. They are not willing to fall behind the rest of society and passively spend their twilight years. Instead they are competing to enjoy and enrich their life as much as young people.

It is even expected that with the active adjustments, the elderly will have a better chance in communication with their children, so reducing the misunderstandings between two generations.

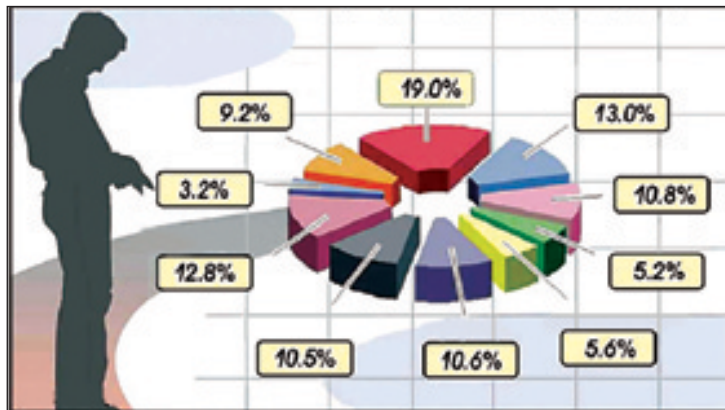
Culture melting and collision

It seems there is a conflict between traditional expectations of filial piety and realization of personal value. Both young and old have been influenced much. However they are trying to understand each other and find family happiness, independent but reliable.

Snapshots

What are we saving up for?

19.0%: Education
13.0%: Retirement
10.8%: Emergencies
5.2%: Earning interest
5.6%: Asset
10.6%: Other
10.5%: Household appliance
12.8%: Housing and furnishing
3.2%: Car
9.2%: Business investment



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The Search for War Victims

More than 40,000 Chinese forced to work in Japan during the World War II remain uncompensated

By Ivy Zhang

The number of Chinese forced to work as laborers in Japan during World War II is approximately 40,000, of whom 6,830 or 17.5% are dead, according to a survey released by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is the first time such figures have been posted publicly in China.

However according to Li Zongyuan, director of the compiling department of the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese War Museum, the numbers are not accurate.

According to the report, 38,935 Chinese laborers arrived in Japan in 169 lots and were allocated to 135 working places of 55 enterprises. The statistics only include Chinese laborers who remained in Japan after Japan's surrender in 1945.

However, those who died during capture and transportation are not taken into account. And some enterprises only provided a count of the dead, with the living excluded. Some enterprises' reports claim they had no Chinese laborers, which is obviously untrue.

Fifty years have passed since World War II, and it is said that



Zhao Zongren, called Zhao Songyuan in the Japanese name list, has collected evidence in preparation to sue the Japanese government Photo by Li Xingwen

2008 should be the deadline for finalizing compensation for World War II victims.

According to Kang Jian, from the China Lawyers Association, the case in which Chinese laborers in Japan during World War II claiming for compensation is scheduled to be tried on April 26 this year. Kang points out that verifying the identification of Chinese laborers is a big problem, given that so much time has elapsed, and so much evidence has been lost.

It is urgent that remaining victims be located and evidence

collected, because those laborers still living are already old. If people don't act immediately, it'll be much harder to find witnesses.

To address this issue, Chinese media services have jointly launched an activity named "In search of surviving Chinese laborers in Japan". A hotline was opened from January 15 to 20 at Beijing Youth Daily with a name list covering 1,027 laborers posted in the paper at the same time. When the one-week activity wrapped up, 180 clues had been collected, concerning 180 persons.

"I'm Zhao Songyuan in the name list," a 71-year-old living in Haidian district called in as soon as the long list was posted. He's the first laborer from Beijing found in the search activity. He also possesses a name list of 305 laborers from Changping district. As far as he knows, only 20 are still alive.

Zhao showed the reporter a blanket given to him during his stay in Japan and recalled what happened to him 57 years ago. In August 1944 when Zhao was only 14 years old, he was tricked after reading a Recruitment Notice, and sent to Shimonoseki in



An article about the return of the first batch of Chinese laborers from Japan was published in a Tianjin newspaper on Oct. 19, 1945

Photo by Gu Zijian

Japan following a one-week boat trip. After being showered and disinfected, he was transported to his first workplace.

Zhao worked at three different places during his stay in Japan. First he was assigned to move rocks and sift sand at Fukushima under harsh working conditions. He always suffered from hunger and heavy beatings and abuse by the Japanese foreman.

The chilly weather was almost unbearable. In the wintertime, he had no shoes and his feet were frostbitten. However, the foreman forced him to keep working. Fortunately, an experienced friend helped him bathe his feet in hot water, gave him some balm and changed his rubber boot for straw sandals. Only by this good fortune did he avoid losing his feet.

Two months later, Zhao was transferred to Nagano where he tilled the bare land and then to

Hokkaido where he loaded mineral rocks in a mercury mine. He could do nothing but bear the hardships.

In December 1945, Zhao was sent back to China. Before he left, the Japanese gave him a blanket and a little money. Zhao has kept the blanket until now and it serves as evidence of that miserable time.

In March 1993, Zhao participated in the movement to claim indemnity from Japan on behalf of Chinese laborers. He received a Japanese lawyers delegation at his home on a couple of occasions and visited Japan twice. This case is still pending.

Old Zhao's main concern is that most people on his list have already passed away. He's worried that all his friends would die in a few years.

Talking about the difficulties in his efforts to claim compensa-

tion and the rampant right wing in Japan, he can't hold back his anger. Why did the Japanese government commit such inhuman crimes? Why do the rightists in Japan continue to refuse to face up to history? Why is there no justice for Chinese laborers? He's anxiously awaiting answers to these questions.

As for the effort to locate survivors and evidence, Gao Xiongfei, representative of Chinese World War II victims and former associate professor of Zhejiang Education Institute had high praise for the activity.

"This is a just action to pursue truth in history and expose the suffering of Chinese laborers while they were in Japan. It is of great significance to search for survivors and evidence, especially as there are only a limited number of survivors left now. It is a race against time."



Xiaosheng, a doctorate student, shows the two books in question Photo by Wang Ziliang

By Ivy Zhang

A professor of anthropology at Peking University was recently accused by a doctorate student of plagiarizing a translated version of *Cultural Anthropology* by William A. Haviland of the U.S. Peking University is investigating this matter, and has meanwhile removed Wang from most of his academic posts.

Wang Mingming, the man in the spotlight, has a glamorous resume.

Born in 1962, Wang received an M.A. in anthropology in 1987 from Xiamen University and a Ph.D. in 1994 from London University. From 1994, he has worked in the Sociology Department of Peking University and he holds the title "professor" and guides doctorate students.

He is credited with the systematic introduction of advanced western anthropology theories to China and has initiated research into Chinese social issues using the western theories.

Wang loses his halo

An article titled *How disappointing!* - Peking University

professor Wang Mingming plagiarized W. A. Haviland's book was published in Shanghai's *Social Science Weekly* on January 10 this year.

In the article, the author, a doctorate student with the pen name Xiaosheng points out that nearly 100,000 Chinese characters in Wang's book *Imaginary Foreign Land* (published in 1998 by Shanghai People's Publishing Press) are copied from Wang's translation of Haviland's book *Cultural Anthropology* (published in 1987 by the same press).

Except for minor changes of tone and some individual words and the elimination of subheadings, Xiaosheng alleges that the second chapter of Wang's book is identical to section 4, 5 and 6 of Haviland's book, even down to the paragraph structure. Even more damning is the fact that Wang does not cite Haviland's book in either the preface or the bibliography.

In face of these accusations, Wang has chosen to keep silent for the time being. When reporters called him or tracked him down to his home, he declined all

Whose Words?

A professor from Peking University is accused of plagiarizing a book by a renowned American anthropologist

requests for interview.

"I have received many calls recently asking for interviews," Wang told a reporter from Beijing Youth Daily last week, "I don't think it's the right time to speak up now. I'll make a serious announcement soon. Sorry, I have nothing to say now."

Unlike Wang, his accuser has much to say. After reading Wang's book last July, Xiaosheng found that one third of Wang's 320,000-word book was plagiarized.

"I spent about a month comparing the two books page by page, because I need to base my criticism on facts and strong evidence," he said.

While accusing Wang of plagiarism, Xiaosheng claims that his article is intended to fight plagiarism in academic circles.

"My ultimate purpose is to call on authorities to establish an anti-plagiarism mechanism and effectively restrict those who would plagiarize," he says. "Although an 'Anonymous Assessment System' is set up at some organizations, many loopholes exist. People still publish books or dissertations depending on their fame, positions and connections."

"His academic career should not be ruined"

Surfing the net or reading local newspapers, you'll find many articles about Wang's case. The news has stirred up the public and led

to hot debates about Wang Mingming and the plagiarism phenomenon in China.

In response to the media frenzy that has descended on Wang, four of his doctorate students have jointly submitted a letter to the university in an effort to defend their beloved teacher. Meanwhile some scholars are voicing concern about Wang's future and expressed sympathy for him, albeit on the condition of anonymity.

"His academic career should not be ruined. The criticism should not target at the individual but the plagiarism phenomenon," one professor said. "Wang made a mistake. But we can't destroy a talented, promising and aspiring scholar and tie him to a disgrace column just because he made a mistake. Anyway, his great achievement in anthropology can't be denied. People should assess him justly."

Wang's life being destroyed is the last thing everybody wants to see. The accuser Xiaosheng is sorry his article has hurt Wang personally.

"Before the article was published, many people told me not to do it, as it would have a serious impact. But I felt I should go ahead. I believe Professor Wang would understand me, because he did do wrong. But later when I heard he had cried and was removed from some academic posts, I felt sorry for him."

Academic corruption is like a deadly tumor

Nobody knows what really led Wang to plagiarize. But everybody knows academic corruption is a serious problem in China.

"Corruption in academic circles must be tackled. A scholars' task is to do research. If they just copy or plagiarize others' works, they are wasting resources and holding back development," said Duan Gang, director of the No. 2 editorial department of the Social Sciences Weekly in Shanghai, in which Xiaosheng's article was published.

Many Chinese scholars see the plagiarizing case as a big shame in the academic circles. They joined the debate and their argument goes far beyond Wang's case. What are the social and psychological factors that cause academic corruption? How to address this problem?

A researcher from the China Academy of Social Sciences attributes academic corruption to the following three aspects. With the economic development, people crave fortune and personal fame; The current academic evaluation mechanism is not well-rounded, and scholars pay more attention to the quantity rather than the quality of their works; and lack of self-discipline.

In the face of corruption in academic circles, many individuals and organizations have stood up to fight against it. For instance, Yang Yusheng, a history profes-

sor from Beijing Normal University, has launched an academic criticism web page, and last December, the China Academy of Sciences promulgated its Academician's self-discipline guidelines on scientific ethics.

Copyright to be protected

In discussing plagiarism, the issue of copyright cannot be neglected.

In China, the copyright law was promulgated in the early 90's and was modified in compliance with WTO rules in October last year.

In 2001, the number of copyright cases handled by the high court for the first trial rounds numbered 700 to 800. As for local courts, in the People's Court of Haidian District for instance, one third of the total cases heard last year were copyright related, some 50 to 60.

A judge from a local court who requested anonymity, while declining to comment on Wang's case, says without going through the proper legal procedures, it's too early to say someone is guilty of plagiarizing.

"According to a Chinese saying 'all articles under heaven are plagiarized.' It's not a problem of a lack of legal constraints, but rather that people think everyone else is plagiarizing, and the law could not possibly punish everybody," he said. "Today, people are paying more attention to copyright. The author is the father of a work and father's right should be protected."



En Garde At Every Turn

By Xiao Xia

On the piste, he can easily be recognized through the white everyone else wears because of his special elegance and agility. Wu Ning is a man who lives everyday of his life as if he is fencing, showing his chivalrous spirit and self-control when facing success and adversity.

Wu Ning, in casual sportswear, turned out to be strong and sensitive. He is the man who opened China's first fencing club and made it into an industry.

A lost fashion victim

The family of a Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) officer gave birth to a young boy 49 years ago in 1953. He was named Wu Ning and was the third child in a big family. From then on, little Wu Ning entered a period of happiness that most kids of the same age would have envied.

Wu Ning was sent to the best boarding school in Beijing since his father was a high-ranking officer in the PLA, and the army played a special role in the society of that time. The young boy soon developed into a handsome tall and slender youngster. He liked bicycles and watches, which were the luxuries of that time. He rode the tide of fashion, for the PLA uniform, especially if it had a high rank, was the symbol of vogue. He remained stealthily alert to all goings on around him and dreamed some day he could serve in the army and follow in his father's footsteps.

Such a happy life lasted 13 years before the Culture Revolution broke out in 1966. Wu Ning became one of Chairman Mao's Red Guards as most youngsters did then. His father was open-minded enough to let the young boy travel around China to "see the world". Wu Ning traveled south from Beijing at the age of 13. On his way to Guangzhou, the young man by chance visited the Central China University of Science and Technology in Wuhan. His first experience in an atmosphere of learning left a deep impression on him.

Turning back to Beijing, everything changed. Wu Ning's father became involved in a huge political

storm. Wu Ning was expelled from school and his dream of joining the PLA was also smashed. "I felt totally lost at that time," Wu Ning said tenderly. In his calm voice, the bitterness can now never be detected after years of polishing. The family was forced out of Beijing and moved to Shijiazhuang in Hebei province.

Wu Ning became a labor worker at the age of 16 in Shijiazhuang and started seven years' hard time. Such a hard time paradoxically ended up by offering him the most important turning point in his life.

A voyage in culture

The Culture Revolution deprived a generation of people of the right of being educated. Wu Ning was among them. Fortunately Wu found his own way to absorb knowledge.

College students faced political oppression at the same time. Several were forced to labor together with Wu Ning. "We listened to music, discussed literature and read poetry in our small room," Wu Ning said seeming to enjoy the happy memory, "like a salon."

The salon pointed Wu Ning in the right direction for his first voyage in literature. Under the supervision of college students, Wu Ning spent day after day in the banned library. Books piled in front of him, Wu Ning lived the musketeer's life of Alexandre Dumas, participated in the noble parties of Honore de Balzac, and suffered the bitterness of Leo Tolstoy.

Luo Side, a college student from Shanghai also led him into the world of music. In their dormitory, Luo's gramophone continually played opera. The gentle music tended Wu Ning's heart like a breeze. Wu then fell in love with the accordion and practiced for the following two years.

"Winter was very cold in Shijiazhuang," Wu Ning said. "My frozen fingers could not play the accordion, but I had my own way." Wu Ning placed a basin of warm water on the stove. Whenever his fingers froze, he put them in the warm water. After a dozen or so minutes, he could enjoy the flow of the music again.

During the days he spent laboring, Wu Ning had to give up his

dream of joining the army. He studied by himself and hoped one day he would be adopted by a university. Wu Ning finally accomplished his wish at the age of 23. He joined the Central China University of Science and Technology, which he had visited ten years ago. Life was changing again.

An aged ballet dancer

At the age of 34, Wu Ning started to learn ballet, which astonished most of the people around him. Most professional ballet dancers quit the stage in their thirties rather than begin. Few believe a man of 34 could learn ballet.

The Chinese Central Ballet Troupe accepted the first group of amateur ballet dancers in 1986, most of whom were young girls including Wu Ning's young sister. The young girl's dancing woke up Wu Ning's passion for art.

"The first ballet class ensured that I would practice ballet for the following ten years," said Wu Ning. "I could not forget the elegant poise of our instructor although he was already a man late in years with a protruding belly." In the following years, Wu Ning participated in every class without any break even right up to his father's death.

"I was tall, black and strong," said Wu Ning. "People believed that I looked more like a sports teacher than a ballet dancer. But I loved ballet." Wu Ning cycled for an hour from his home to the ballet troupe twice a week and enjoyed the 90-minute-long ballet training session. "In the end, no one laughed at me, I danced really well." Beijing TV station even told Wu's story on TV in those days.

Founding a fencing club

Wu Ning's first contact with fencing was at the end of the 1970s, when the French movie *The Three Musketeers* was shown. He was grabbed by the fatal nobility in an instant.

In the summer of 1998, Wu Ning finally opened the Fenxing Fencing Club, China's first fencing club. Since the opening, hundreds of people, Chinese or foreigners, old or young have taken training in fencing here or have just entered a match. Among them, two people

carved a deep impression in Wu Ning's mind, one foreigner and one Chinese.

"The first fencer in my club was an Italian," Wu Ning recalled, "we still keep in touch now though he already went back home." At the very beginning, Wu Ning had to overcome a lot, including the bureaucracy of the administration, the lack of investment and experience and the betrayal of a partner. The subscription of fencers gave him faith that he had made the right choice however.

Riccardo Farina, the chief representative of Gruppo Arca Nordest in Beijing was the first and still one of the best fencers in Fenxing Fencing Club.

In 1999, a man deeply moved Wu Ning. A labor worker of a steel-smelting plant of Xuanhua in Hebei province came to learn fencing. He waited for Wu Ning for the whole morning until the latter arrived at the club. "He had to leave for home that night, so I gave him a couple of hours' free training," Wu Ning said, "He came here only because he loved the sport."

Wu Ning's club is by now well established and flourishing. He is proud of the fact that his fencers have even been champions in the nationwide amateur fencing competition. Wu not only built a club but also set an industry criterion. Today fencing clubs in Beijing more or less follow his style. He has finally achieved success.

"Wu Ning is a man with pure love for life," one of his friends said, "Only such purity can provide him with the creativity and persistence in his pursuit of the beauty of life."

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- ① Wu Ning instructs Ian Powers
② Zhang Yong is the student of Wu Ning and also the champion of Sabre in the 2001 National College Fencing Championships
③ Fenxing is the first fencing club in Beijing
④ PLA uniform was once the fashion among Chinese youngsters

Photos by Chen Jianli

By Miao Yajie

The Bronze Age is an age to be yearned for. How the ancient Chinese reached a peak of perfection in casting skills and technology remains a mystery, if the time, dating back to 2000 BC, and the degree of social development are taking into consideration.

The practical function and the spiritual significance along with its artistic value make bronze ware the brightest star in the sky of ancient Chinese culture. Since the Han Dynasty (206BC-220AD), unearthed bronze ware was considered a "propitious omen". The enthusiasm for and research on ancient bronze ware has never faded for thousands of years. Thus, it is no wonder that nearly 1,000 replica sets of ten pieces of bronze ware from the Shang and Zhou dynasties (16th century BC to 221 BC) have been sold over the last couple of days.

The ten genuine pieces are among the most important collections, the garrison of the Museum of Chinese History.

Simuwu Ding (司母戊鼎), the biggest and heaviest piece of bronze ware unearthed so far, boasts a height of 133cm and a weight of 832.84kg; it is also the earliest (14th Century BC-11th Century BC) work among the replicas.

Ding is an ancient cooking vessel. Ding pottery appeared as early as 7,000 years ago. However, when it came to the Shang and Zhou dynasties, bronze Ding became the most significant ritual vessel, the symbol of the state.

Most of the Dings are round in shape with three legs, while some of them are square with four legs. And Simuwu Ding is the most famous four-leg square Ding.

Of the other nine pieces, there are a Zun (尊), wine vessel, a Pan (盆), washing basin, a Gui (鬲), food container, a Yu (盂), food or



Photo by Jia Ting

Touching the Past Through Bronze

water container, a Hu (壶), wine or water vessel, and an Ice Jian (冰鉴), a double-layered wine container to cool the wine.

The owl was an immortal bird loved and worshiped by ancient people, the Owl-shaped Zun (鸮尊) displays a great three-dimensional effect created by the cicada patterns on its beak and chest, the snake patterns on its wings, and an owl on its wings poised for flight.

The most interesting piece is the Bronze Jian (铜冰鉴). Inside the square container sits a smaller one. In summer, ice can be put in between the two layers to make the wine in the

inner container cool. It is probably the earliest refrigerator found in the world up till now.

In the collecting circle of ancient paintings and calligraphy, a saying goes that a high-quality replica, "slightly inferior to the genuine" is worth something.

So, what about the artistic standard of the bronze ware replicas? According to 80-year-old Shi Shuqing, a renowned researcher of the Museum of the Chinese History, "It is very satisfying. The set of replicas is of great quality, and represents the artistic level of the contemporary bronze technology."

Many buyers shared similar opinions with the general manager of China Success Group, Xie Mingming, who bought a set for his company. Xie said what attracted him first is the supervision of the Museum of Chinese History, which vouches for the quality of the replica. Second, "Because the sets are limited to a number of 2,008, this ensures the value of the set in the future," said Xie.

Hanging a scroll of painting or calligraphy is not a rare scene in many families nowadays, so one wonders whether the promotion of the bronze ware replicas by the history museum may arouse a new trend. After all, people can feel a sense of history and culture more directly through something tangible.

Retail price: 19,800 yuan, including ten pieces of bronze ware displayed on an ebony (乌木) shelf, a collection certificate, and a well printed Chinese-English bilingual book of introduction.
Display locations: 21 Fuyoujie Street, Xicheng District (Opposite the northwest gate of Zhongnanhai) (府右街21号)
Or: the upper ground floor of Grand Hyatt Hotel (Oriental Plaza, Wangfujing)
For more information in Chinese: 6608 8281, 6606 8643

Visit Beijing Folk Life on Paper

By Shi Xinyu

These paintings make me think of my childhood."

"Look, the leisurely and satisfied looks on people's faces in those paintings: this is something that's long been gone in present life," Liu Deliang, a retired policeman, said with a sparkle in his eyes at the exhibition of Ma Haifang's paintings on Beijing Folk Life

Open from the middle of this month at the Long Shun Cultural Tea Shop, this exhibition has received hundreds of fans like Liu who are devoted to Beijing's traditional folk culture. Some paintings such as the Beijing Opera fans practicing by the roadside,

the peddler selling baked sweet potatoes in a hutong, and the old men walking with their birdcages are familiar scenes to many visitors, while some of them, like the Ground-Bean Drink seller on the street, cause people to reminisce over those past days.

"As a 46-year-old native born Beijing citizen, I have experienced the rapid development of this city and have also witnessed the disappearance of much traditional folk culture," said Ma Haifang, the painter, "So, 20 years ago I began to record the scenes that I could see or remember on paper. I hope traditional folk culture will enjoy eternal life on paper."

Opening Dates: till January 31.
Opening Time: 9:30am to 11:30pm, 7 days a week.
Free Entry.
Add: Long Shun Cultural Tea Shop 64, Yongdingmenwai Street, Chong Wen District.

(龙顺茶社, 永定门外大街64号)



Painted by Ma Haifang

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Careful! You're Being Watched!

By Shi Xinyu

How would someone react if one day he found what he did in the bedroom and bathroom was secretly screened and publicly shown on the Internet?

So asks Dai Lai in her novel *Someone's There*, published by Bai Hua Literature Publishing House in September 2001.

In this novel, the young female writer has found a rational, impersonal voice to tell a messy story, a style infrequently found in Chinese female writers' work. An Tian, a young man, moves into a new apartment following his girlfriend's suggestion. One day, he suddenly finds his daily private life has become a real-life show on the Internet and is browsed by thousands of people. At the same time his girlfriend disappears. With some holes left on the ceiling where the cameras used to nestle, An Tian's life slips into confusion as he begins an endless search into the bottom of the affair.

Dai Lai's primary concern in the book is not the fact of the real-life show, she intends to draw attention to questions behind that: along with the rapid development of high-technology and mass media, how can an individual guard his or her privacy, how much can someone tolerate when his or her life is exposed to the public, and how will a person change physically and mentally after being exposed? "This novel offers us far more than a fine-plotted story," says Liu Yan, the book's editor.



Photo by Cui Jun

A man's most intimate life is filmed by secret cameras in his home and shown on the Internet.

Someone's There

《对面有人》
By Dai Lai
戴来

Published by Bai Hua
Literature Publishing
House in September
2001
Price RMB11.50

Extracts from *Someone's There*:

Chapter I: A Fatal Absurdity

1. On the other end of the phone, Ding Ning's voice was quite agitated. He said he had come across a real-life show while surfing on the Internet yesterday. The 65-minute long show was called LOOK! and the leading actor was An Tian! He said he was initially quite interested in watching, but later on found that he and Xiao Ai, his girlfriend, also appeared on the show: right in

An Tian's bed, the blue
birthmark,
shaped like
the map

of Taiwan island, on Xiao Ai's hip was given an extreme close-up! Then, sounding completely embarrassed, Ding Ning asked An Tian: What the fuck are you playing at?

2. At the moment An Tian opened his eyes, a sudden thrill seized his heart. His fists clenched unconsciously, he held his breath and tried hard to feel the whole room in the darkness. The bedroom was completely soundless, as was the room outside the bedroom. But this kind of hush was a little bit too silent to be true.

6. An Tian called his place, but no one answered, so Liu Mo, his girlfriend, was not there. Then he called Liu Mo's mobile phone and heard "this mobile is switched off". After walking along the street aimlessly for a while, An Tian stepped into a small Internet Bar named "A Couple of Little Bees". He chose a seat in the corner. Before clicking into that damned web site, he lit up a cigarette and ordered a cup of coffee. He drew deeply and impatiently, and soon the cigarette was finished. Then pouring the cup of coffee down his throat in one gulp, An Tian wiped his mouth with the back of his hand and felt he had the courage to face that ugly self.

Flicking through the frames on display, An Tian could tell the probable location and number of the hidden cameras: about three cameras set at the south-east corner of the bedroom, over the mirror in the bathroom and somewhere near the light on the living room ceiling. While watching the show however, there were many times that An Tian had the impulse to rush home, climb on the desk and pull those cameras down. He still told himself: sit quietly and sit through it.

Finally, An Tian really found something interesting: a so-called good man in society actually had another face in private. That guy made faces to himself in the mirror and consoled himself in bed, and he even frequently sat in a chair for a long time with his mouth hanging open like an idiot. Well, when his girlfriend was there, he always kept himself busy, like a farmer who was devoted to the earth or a bull who never tired. God, that was really a crazy but creative idea to produce such a show!

Chapter II: Stuck in the Mud

5. "Wow, I know you!" The man suddenly pointed at An Tian's face and screamed, "You are..."

An Tian suddenly became aware that the man must have seen him in the LOOK! In a panic, he bolted, running down the stairway from the 11th floor, even forgetting to call an elevator. As far as he could remember, he had never run that fast since school days, and he felt bewildered, nervous, hopeless and weak.

Back at home, staring at the three holes that had become obvious because they had been

filled up with plastic bags, An Tian felt his life had slipped into a finely schemed marsh with many onlookers standing on the bank. They were watching, laughing and chatting. From the marsh, An Tian waved his arms to people on the bank and let himself gaze at them, entreating them, but those guys were still just standing there, watching, laughing and chatting.

Chapter IV: Threads of the Affair

1. At the end of last month, An Tian set out for a long trip from the south to the north, here and there. While experiencing the food turning from light to salty, An Tian met some long-lost friends, drunk some wine and spoke some boundless nonsense. When he came home, he found the confusion he had intended to solve during the trip was still there, like some tangled threads entwined in his life. When left there, the confusion just stayed like a mass, but when touched, the threads only became more twisted and fastened together.

Chapter V: A Seemingly Normal Life

1. After weeping silently for a while, An Tian went to the bathroom and washed his face. There, he saw a pale, unshaved, and perplexed man in the mirror. That man made him think of a camel that was consuming the last energy of its body in the desert. With hands propped up on the marble commode, An Tian moved his face close to the mirror. He murmured to the man in the mirror, sounding like a promise: I've got to do something; I've really got to do something; I can't let things go on like this!

Chapter VIII: Women, Women

1. The first thing An Tian did when he came home from the office was to watch the LOOK! on the Internet from beginning to end with a cup of tea and a cigarette. Only after that, could other things go on. A week before, on his birthday, he hung up on Ding Ning and in a fit of rage stamped on the VCD Ding Ning had sent him as a birthday gift. Then the next day he went to a nearby telecommunications office and applied for Internet service. His colleagues at work often talked about the Internet, saying it was a new vehicle of mass media, a new way of communication, a new instrument for gaining knowledge: basically, a new life. But for An Tian, things were reversed: the Internet was a way to review his former life.

Chapter X: A Deal

"Who are they?"

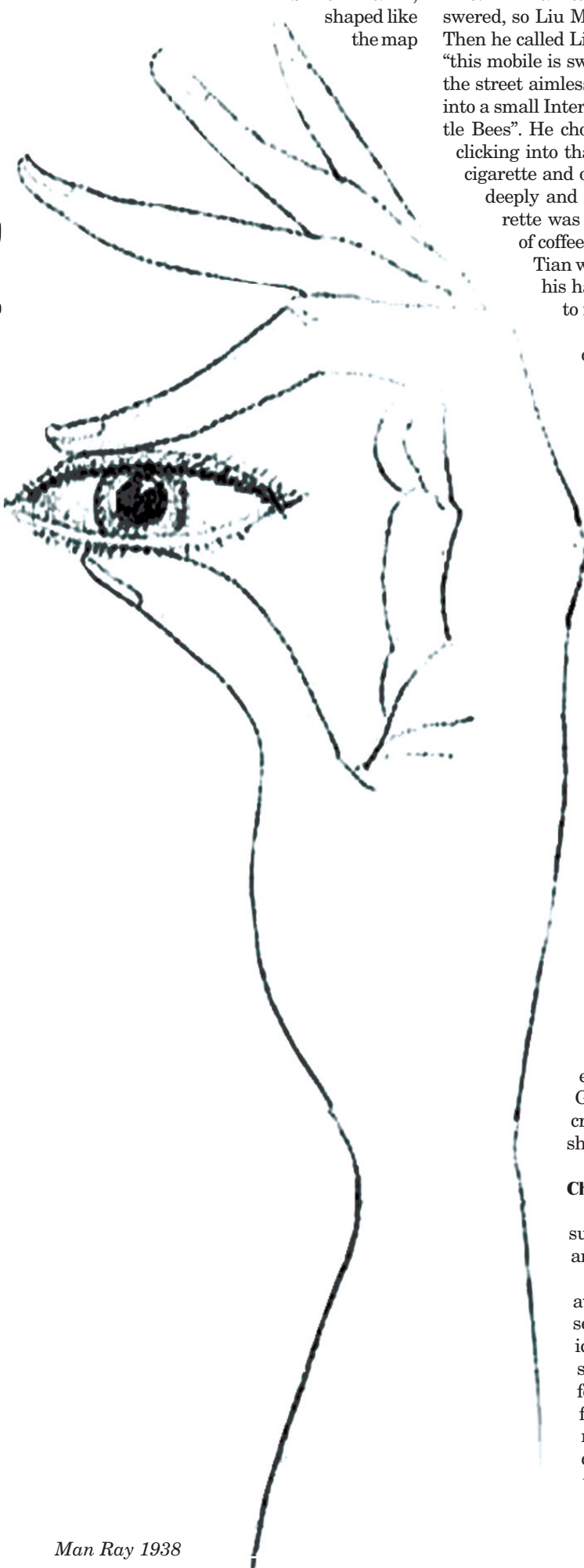
"Remember the web site I told you last time? They played many tricks in order to gather more clicks, including the LOOK! Actually after the LOOK! was shown on the Internet, the number of visitors increased startlingly. So they want to go on."

Pronouncing the last sentence with great effort, Liu Mo stole a glance at An Tian. Like the continuation to a TV play, An Tian sneered back at her.

Chapter XIII: We All Need Emotional Consolation

7. As he waited for the graphics to download, An Tian lit up a cigarette and served himself a cup of tea. Again, he took out that scent bottle, opened it and put it on the computer. On the screen, that tall, slim man was busy laboring on Liu Mo's body. Sitting in front of the computer and facing the screen with a cigarette between his fingers, An Tian could not remember how many times he had watched the show. Anyway, the more he watched it, the stronger he felt that the man on the screen was just someone physically similar to him and maybe had some link with him, but the link was not a close one.

Translated by Shi Xinyu



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Chinese Musicians Catch World's Eye at Grammys

By Zhu Lin

The winners of 44th Grammy Awards will be revealed this Sunday from the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Three Chinese musicians Tang Muhai, Tan Dun and Wang Jian have made it to the nominee list.

The three candidates

Tan Dun, famous for combining different cultures in his music, has been successful ever since he shone at the last Oscars. His music for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* is included in the nominees for Best Score Soundtrack Album. Two pieces from the film soundtrack have also been selected—*A Love Before Time* for the Best Song Written for Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Media, and *The Eternal Vow* for the Best Instrumental Composition.

Born in 1949, Muhai Tang is the most celebrated Chinese conductor in the west. He has been selected for Instrumental Soloist Performance (with Orchestra), by conducting Tan Dun's *Yi2*, Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra with the Gulbenkian Orchestra from Portugal. The guitarist is Sharon Isbin. 1983 marked a turning point in Muhai Tang's life when Herbert von Karajan invited him to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Jian Wang, the cellist, is included for Best Chamber

Music Performance by performing Messiaen's *Quartet For The End Of Time* together with pianist Myung-Whun Chung, clarinetist Paul Meyer and violinist Gil Shaham. Wang first caught the world's attention at the age of ten in 1978. When Isaac Stern was in China making a documentary video 'From Mao to Mozart' at that time, he discovered Wang and featured the young prodigy in the video. "He is one of the finest young instrumentalists of our time," Stern declared 20 years later. "Now he's definitely a star!" said Ye Xiaogang, one of the most successful Chinese composers.

Contemporary Chinese musicians enjoy growing reputation

Contemporary Chinese musicians have started to win an important position throughout the world in terms of both composing and performing. Ye Xiaogang said that ten years ago, foreigners might be surprised to hear such brilliant work from a contemporary Chinese composer. "But now, gradually we've successfully gained their approval," said Ye.

Ye himself has just recorded a CD of his work with Wergo, Germany. This is the first solo CD for a Chinese composer to be produced by Wergo, the most specialized CD company focusing on contempo-

rary classical music in Europe. At the same age as Ye, Bright Sheng, another Chinese composer, won the MacArthur Fellowships last year. No classical composer had been awarded this prize for 15 years.

Chinese musicians also appear in first-class symphony orchestras. The No.1 star is Xiaoming Han, the Horn Principal in the Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra, Germany. In the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, there are two Chinese musicians—Hai-Ye Ni, Associate Principal Cellist, and Tu Qiang, one of the cellists.

Grammys still a way off

Chinese classical music circles never pay much attention to the Grammy Awards. In the west, very few Chinese musicians can launch a CD with world-class music companies, and most classical musicians remain in their own closed circles without investigating possibilities to commercialize. "So the news about the three composers has caused sensation among music lovers and western music circles, rather than among Chinese music circles," said Liu Xuefeng, chief editor of *Philharmonic*, the leading classical music magazine in China.



Muhai Tang



Jian Wang

Photo by Zeng Wei



Tan Dun

Photo by Luke

Music Supermarket Sinks into Embarrassment

By Zhu Lin

The Music Supermarket, a new way of arranging concerts initiated by Golden Sail Concert Hall hasn't achieved the free consuming atmosphere of a supermarket. It remains a long way from maturity.

"The idea is that going to a concert is like shopping in a supermarket," said An Ying, project manager of the concert hall. There are three sections of concerts offering different sorts of music, traditional Chinese music, Beijing Opera and Western classical music. Audiences can go for any of the three according to their preferences. Concerts starting from 6.30pm, 8pm and 9.30pm also offer convenience to those with hectic schedules.

Music-lovers are embarrassed for choice of complaints though, as the sponsors' management system is very much in its infancy. "Our concert hall is half as big as the Beijing Concert Hall, so there can be closer communication between the audience and the performers," emphasized An. Most of the performers are young students from music schools however, and they lack ability and experience in communicating with the audience. "The atmosphere is not as good as I expected at all,"

said Yao Lin, an opera fan.

While the sponsors remain unclear about how to locate the project in the whole performing market, another problem emerges. In terms of the performers' quality, the program belongs to the middle-range bracket of the market. But tickets cost 80 yuan for the three concerts each night, no matter which one or how many one listens to. That's equal to the lowest ticket price of other concerts of a much higher caliber. Thus some punters don't consider 80 yuan worth the outing. "Why should I pay more money for a mediocre concert held here?" questioned Yao.

Ninety percent of the audience was invited by the concert hall. "If I didn't have free tickets, I wouldn't come," said Pang Jieshen, "My pension can't run to such large amounts for entertainment."

New concepts are easy enough to dream up, but often encounter resistance in being accepted. "This is my first time to deal with the business of performing arts," admitted Li An, chairman of the board of Golden Sail Concert Hall. The sponsors need to investigate and explore the market a lot further before launching their ideas.

Humorous Celebration Ties Friendship

By Yi He

The Musical Celebration of Friendship between Norway and China held at the Forbidden City Concert Hall created an atmosphere soaked in humor.

Norwegian musician Bendik Hofseth bounded playfully up on stage at the start of this Monday evening. He played the popular Chinese tune 'Jasmine Flower' on the sax as a prelude to the concert. Then the audience couldn't help laughing at the lyrics to Chinese rock band Zi Yue, "I hang around at your home, waiting for you to appear. But it's always your mom coming in and out."



Photo by Cui Jun

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Revival of an Ancient Musical Instrument

By Lydia

The Xun (埙), a traditional egg-shaped wind instrument is now reappearing in Panjiayuan Flea Market. Every weekend, Liang Shudong, a peasant from Baoding, Hebei Province, brings his self-made pottery Xun here. The shabby stall attracts many visitors, particularly foreigners, many of whom have never encountered this ancient Chinese instrument.

The history of the Xun can be traced back to the New Stone Age, when people discovered that blowing through the holes of a special stone used for hunting could make a musical sound. At first it was simply used to lure the animal being hunted into the open. The Xun developed over a period of some 3,000 years, from a simple one holed instrument, to one with sev-

en holes capable of playing a complete scale. In many dynasties, it was used during imperial performances, for its unique classic elegance. However in the turmoil of the last century, the Xun almost became a lost art. Not until the beginning of the 1980s did interest begin to revive in this unusual ancient instrument.

Panjiayuan



Flea Market

Some years ago Liang Shudong bought a Xun from a local market and began to study it. When he finally perfected the art of making the pottery Xun himself, he started bringing his art works to Panjiayuan. "The process is really hard and long," says Liang, "I have to continually shape the instruments, as well as blowing again and again, to ensure the accuracy of the sound."

When you blow the Xun, you should press your fingers tightly against the holes on both sides and put the lower lip slightly against the upper hole. However, Liang says that he hasn't yet found any visitors who could blow a beautiful melody. Don't you want to have a try?

Add: No.9, row 2, Area D, Panjiayuan Flea Market.

Price: 50-200 yuan.

Open: Sat & Sun, 7:30am-4pm.



Photo by Chen Shuyi

World of Copper

By Lydia

Just opposite One World Department Store, in the north end of Wangfujing Street, is a store with two large windows displaying copper suits of armour, European Middle Ages style. I'm sure your curiosity will push you to enter.

You won't be disappointed if you do so. The shop contains nothing but copper, in just about any design you can imagine; copper eagles, copper tobacco pipes, copper Chinese chess sets, copper masks, copper model gramophones... you get the idea! The store is spread over three rooms. In the first are the really big sculptures, and in the inner two you can find smaller works of copper art, on the floor, hanging on the walls and in cabinets.

Most of the pieces are collected from major cities throughout China and are made by art school graduates. There are both traditional Chinese and foreign style pieces, ancient and modern designs, things from people's daily life and religious artefacts. Of the latter, statues of Buddha and Guanyin (the Goddess of Mercy) are the best sellers. These are beautifully shaped, from walnut-size to almost two meters high.

The shop is often crowded, especially during peak tourism times. Of course you can find similar sorts of goods in many of the markets, but prices are quite reasonable here, and the variety available makes it well worth a look.

Add: Tie Mian Ren (铁面人), 6 Dengshixikou Dajie, opposite One World Department Store (世都百货), Dongcheng District, bus 103, 104, 420, 814 to Dengshixikou (灯市口西口).

Open: 9am-11pm.

Tel: 13901008862, contact Wang Qi.



Best Bites

Feudal Official Cuisine

By Lin Chunhui/Li Dan

Xiao Dai is a fat and friendly guy with a face showing good fortune. However, the 33-year-old always complains that he's not happy at all, for he hasn't realized any of his three major life goals; to run an exquisite and elegant magazine introducing Chinese cuisine, to establish his dreamed-of Dai Cuisine (perhaps not to hand down for thousands of years, but at least for several generations!), and his third goal, not widely known yet, is to marry a woman of unrivalled beauty. Anyway, this talented guy really has made some achievements in areas related to good articles, food and beauty. For example, managing the restaurant *Yu Zhuan Tang* (玉饕堂).

Waterside dwelling is currently a popular concept in Beijing real estate circles. In this way, *Yu Zhuan Tang* can be described as a waterside restaurant. But don't think *Yu Zhuan Tang* is just a common eatery, where if you come you will have food. Since the restaurant serves genuine Feudal Official cuisine, you must certainly make a reservation, even some days in advance!

Feudal Official cuisine (Guanfu Cai) originated from the delicious food made by experienced chefs in old-style residences in the Qing Dynasty. Whatever you might say about those well-educated officials with plenty of leisure time and a liking for the finer things of life, they certainly knew how to eat well. For instance, the chicken soup at *Yu Zhuan Tang* is really made of free-range Hebei hens, cooked for at least 10 hours, flavored with duck, ham and dried scallops. If a guest wants this soup for dinner, the cooks have to start preparing it at dawn!

The dishes at *Yu Zhuan Tang* are genuine, but what really makes a meal here something special is manager Xiao Dai with his boundless hospitality. At the moment, Xiao Dai would ask the waitress to bring up his favorite set of appetizers; a small bowl of spicy fish, several slices of soyed beef, a little plate of red-cooked pork with doufu, plus an alms bowl of savoury rice. After naming all these dishes, Xiao Dai will get to work activating his guest's appetite.

Add: *Yu Zhuan Tang* (玉饕堂), in Youth Lake Park (Qingnianhu 青年湖), Andingmenwai, Dongcheng District, subway to Andingmen. **Open:** 9am-2pm, 5:30pm-late, according to the guests. **Tel:** 64261867.



Gui You Shopping Mall

Spring Festival Sale

To celebrate the 6th anniversary of the brand, Maniform 40%, Full-court, Esprit 50% (from Feb 1), SCDA 50%, Only 30-50%, Yeronoda's latest design, Septwolves, Gemzboh 30-50%, U2 30-70%, Flying Scotsman 20-80%. **When:** Jan 25-31. **Kuuki, Staccato, Belle 30-50%. When:** Jan 25-27. **Tel:** 65629175.

Beijing Lufthansa Friendship Shopping City

6/F, Famous Children's wear show: Bobdog, Goodbaby, Les Enphants 40-7%. Men's wear: Camel, Sunland 70-80%, St. Edenweiss, Pangu, Nisshin all 40%. **When:** till Jan 30.

5/F, French labels women's wear show. **When:** till Feb 3. **Tel:** 64651851.

IKEA

Buy four Sennik folding chairs & get the 5th free! Buy a stockpot and get a beautiful red apron, North European style.

Where: 27 Beisanhuan Zhong, Xicheng District, bus 300, 307 to Madian (马甸). **When:** till Feb 11. **Tel:** 62002345.

Itoyokada

Spring Festival promotion! Thousands of products greatly reduced. Smart Garments 50%, Yorkreine 50%, Full-court traditional Chinese clothes 30%, Adidas 30%, Nike 20%, Pepsi 20-50%, etc.

Where: bus 112, 115 to Shilipu, Chaoyang District. **When:** till Feb 3. **Tel:** 65565566.

Modern Plaza

Located in Zhongguancun area. After it's grand renovation, the plaza has become even more modern and practical, esp now with the present Spring Festival promotion. If you spend 200 yuan, you will get a voucher for 50 yuan!

Where: opposite Renmin University, Zhongguancun Rd, Haidian District. **When:** Feb 1-11. **Tel:** 62576688-6836.

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902524 or 13910916642. Email: shopping@ynet.com.

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By Wang Dandan

Following our report last week on office location, we have selected a typical grade-A office building from each of the six main areas to introduce to you: Beijing Ocean Plaza in Financial Street; Oriental Plaza; China Resources Building in the Jianguomen Area; Kerry Center in the CBD Area, Sunflower Tower in the Lufthansa Area and Raycom Infotech Park Tower in Zhongguancun.

General introduction

Beijing Ocean Plaza is located on Chang'an Avenue - Beijing's main east-west thoroughfare, facing the headquarters of the People's Bank of China.

The Towers at Oriental Plaza is a self-contained business compound featuring eight grade-A office towers, four serviced apartment blocks and a five-star business hotel. The office blocks offer 3,000 square meters of space on each floor, some of which feature a special elevated design, allowing for flexible layouts and the easy installation of electrical circuits and communications networks.

China Resources Building is a rectangular structure with no central pillar, where office units circle central facilities. Big French glass screens and windows mean all the rooms are bright and have fantastic views. The cored column design is an earthquake-proof mechanical system.

Beijing Kerry Center is an integrated mixed-use development consisting of twin Grade A office towers and deluxe apartment buildings, coupled with support facilities including a business hotel, shopping arcade and membership club.

Beijing Sunflower Tower is a 53,000 square meter commercial office building situated in Beijing's Chaoyang District. It is located on the Third Ring Road and adjacent to the Beijing Lufthansa Center to which it is linked by a pedestrian and bicycle bridge spanning the Liang Ma River. The internationally recognized high quality construction standards Philipp Holzmann AG established at the Beijing Lufthansa Center have been repeated in the Beijing Sunflower Tower.

Raycom has an exterior facade designed to maximize natural light and minimizing heat absorption in summer. It is located in Zhongguancun, and its first tenant, American Cadence Company, moved in last Friday.

Elevators

Beijing Ocean Plaza uses the latest model Swiss made Schindler elevators. There are 19 elevators together with four escalators. The elevators allow passengers to travel to any floor, non-stop. The efficiency of the system ensures that the longest waiting time is no more than 20 seconds.

There are altogether 16 elevators and staircases inside China Resources Building.

Sunflower Tower has ten "Kone" elevators: two service/fire elevators; two, 18-person elevators and six, 21-person elevators with a speed of 3.5 meters/second.

At Raycom there are eight passenger elevators in the working areas inside the building: four in the southern part and four in the northern part. The longest wait time is 30 seconds.

Intelligent facilities

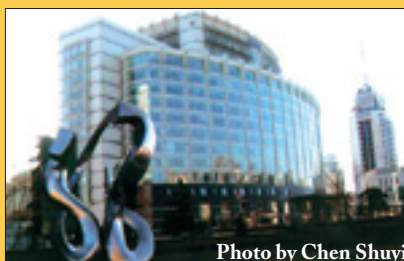
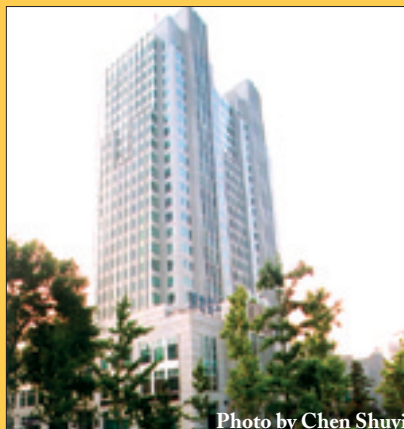
The cabling in Beijing Ocean Plaza is produced by AT&T and is a Lucent telecommunication system. The optical fibre links WAIS nodes incorporate CHINAPAC, DDN, ISDN, CHINANET and the world wide web. For each 8-9 square meter of office there are two connection points to ensure ample access. In addition, there are 4,000 international direct

Renting an Office in Beijing

Facilities



Oriental Plaza

Beijing Ocean Plaza
Photo by Chen ShuyiChina Resources Building
Photo by Chen Shuyi

Kerry Center



Beijing Sunflower Tower



Raycom Infotech Park Tower

telephone lines and 3,000 central switchboard lines.

China Resources Building features a comprehensive wiring system and intranet, connecting to external communication systems with optical fibre, and provides servers, switching boards and in-house switching boards.

Oriental Plaza provides a network of data transmission between the building and architectural complex.

Beijing Kerry Center offers structured cabling system including CAT3, CAT5, single-mode and multi-mode optical fibre networks.

Fibre-optic communication cables connect the Beijing Sunflower Tower to the Third Ring Road's network, and there are two access points per floor to the building's copper cable telecommunication riser.

Raycom has a direct connection to China Telecom's main artery and provides a bottleneck-free information highway. The building also has an end to end service from China Telecom.

Power supply

Beijing Ocean Plaza is equipped with a dual feed 10KV high voltage electricity supply and an imported 1,200KW diesel generator as back-up. Individual ammeters will be set for each tenant's account and pre-set floor circuitry assists in separation and complete versatility of floor networks as required by tenants for business.

Four 2000LKVA transformers are installed in China Resources Building, adopting double feed power supply pattern and providing 90W-110W per square meter. Any circuit can carry 100% of the building's electricity load.

Besides its main electrical supply system, the Kerry Centre is also equipped with an 800KW back up generator.

Beijing Sunflower Tower's power is a dual feed system supplied from separate grids, with an automatic switch to the other grid should the grid in use experience fluctuations or failure in supply and a back-up power supply from a 1,000KVA diesel generator.

Raycom provides dual supply with a capacity of 6600KVA. There is also an emergency backup generator with a capacity of 1600KVA.

Security system

All above office buildings have an advanced network of over 100 surveillance cameras covering entrances, waiting areas, parking ar-

reas, elevators etc.

Fire prevention

All buildings feature intelligent fire prevention systems that automatically detect system faults, triggering sprinklers and alarms as and when required. Photoelectric sensors detect smoke and do not emit environmentally damaging radiation. The temperature of the buildings is constantly monitored for changes.

Air-conditioning system

All buildings have central air conditioning systems, however, there are differences in air quality. In Beijing Ocean Plaza, fresh air is available at 30M3 (cubic meter per person) /per hour under normal circumstances, with a maximum airflow of 45M3/per hour; Oriental Plaza, around 40M3/per hour; China Resources Building, around 50M3/per hour; Kerry Center, around 35M3/per hour, Sunflower Plaza, around 50M3/per hour and Raycom, around 40-50M3/per hour. The normal fresh air supply should be around 40M3/per hour.

Water supply and drainage

Hot and cold water are available 24 hours a day in all buildings, with all potable water being sterilized by non-harmful ultra-violet radiation at the entrance to the storage tank.

Parking facilities

Car parking space management is fully automated with automatic ticket machines and an inductive card recognition system for tenants.

There are 350 parking spaces in the basement car park of Beijing Ocean Plaza with reserve space for future needs.

Oriental Plaza's parking facility includes spaces for 2,000 cars and space for bicycle parking.

China Resources Building has an underground parking lot with over 350 spaces.

Kerry Center has over 700 parking spaces.

Sunflower Tower has a capacity for 200 cars and storage for 270 bicycles on the basement levels of the building.

Raycom has 52 parking space on the ground and 212 underground.

If you have any further questions, please email: housing@ynet.com

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with? Our E-mail: housing@ynet.com
Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525



Picture by Xie Feng

You Can't Break the Law

By Wang Dandan/Yan Ming



Legal Aid

Bruce Jones bought an apartment three months ago with a bank loan. The apartment is located on the top floor of the building and offers good views of the vicinity.

However, after he moved into the house, he found a crack in the roof. So when it is windy outside the apartment, it is also windy inside. Bruce asked the developer to fix the crack, and the developer did so. Not long after, when Bruce found another crack in the roof, without waiting for the developer to fix it, Bruce stopped making loan repayments to the bank, as the developer is his guarantor for the loan. The developer refused to pay the loan too.

The bank then sued Bruce and the developer. The court ordered the developer to compensate Bruce for his loss caused by the crack, such as decoration fees. The developer also had to decrease the price of the house by a specified amount. At the same time, Bruce was required by the court to pay the amount of the loan for which he was in arrears and pay relevant interest to the bank.

Xu Chendi, lawyer with Zhongsheng Law Firm, suggests that the purchaser should not take it upon himself to punish the developer in such a case, as when doing so, the purchaser himself may be breaking the law.

Only for 70 years?

By Wang Dandan

Dear editor:

When I signed the purchasing contract with the developer, I saw a rule saying that the land on which my apartment was built can only be used for 70 years. Does

this mean I can only own my apartment for 70 years?

Dear reader:

According to rule 22 of the "Municipal Management Rules on Real Estate", when it comes to the end of the period of usage, that is 70 years, the apartment owners should apply one year in advance to the Beijing Real Estate Bureau to prolong the usage period. However, the application will be refused if the land is slated for public use or city infrastructure construction. The house owner must then sign a new contract on an agreed land usage period and pay the relevant fees. So, my dear reader, you do not have to worry about your apartment, at least not for 70 years!

Ten Famous Furniture Brands Enter Beijing



Homehelp

By Hydie

Tomorrow Illinois Furniture will act as an agent for ten famous furniture brands from Italy, France, Germany and America. This is the first time for these brands to enter Chinese market.

Giorgetti, established in 1898 in Italy, is an internationally recognized furniture brand. Rolf Benz, founded in Germany, created a special software that allows customers to choose their favorite patterns of furniture; Loft, whose prime designer does work for many European Royal families, is highly regarded in the design industry.

Other brands include Roche Bobois, Frighetto, Kartell, Axil, Nemo Fiam, Calia.

Illinois, founded in 1995, ranks as a top furniture company in China, with over 100 million yuan sales per year.

Shangri-La Hotel appoints Tong Wah Nam master chef



Message Board

Tong Wah Nam is experienced in every field of Chinese cuisine and has worked in many top class restaurants, hotels and resorts. He will supervise the preparation of all the delicacies for the coming Spring Festival.

Oriental Plaza leased 1,500 sqm to Unisys

Unisys China has signed a contract with Oriental Plaza to rent over 1,500 square meters. Unisys is one of the Fortune 500 companies, with business all over the world.

Kempinski Hotel announces completion of renovation program

Kempinski Hotel Beijing's Deluxe Floors and Superior Floors are now in operation. The renovation included new upholstery, carpet, wallpaper, curtains and bed covers, as well as an enhanced lighting system. All rooms feature two telephone lines with SDSL broadband technology, voice mail, personal in-room safe, coffee and tea making facilities (Deluxe Floors), upgraded furniture and fixtures.



Quiz

Target: Hotel Kunlun
When: 16:30-17:30, Monday, Jan. 21st
Hotel Detective: Li Dan

Stephen Dadson, Canada

I come to Beijing for business every six weeks and most of the time, I like to live in this hotel. I really like it, for its perfect location near the airport, in the embassy area, plus very good shopping environment.

P. Gary Coke, U.S.

I like the domestic atmosphere of the hotel. I'm from America and I don't want to experience the same international standard hotel service again especially when I am here in China. I'm the president of a consulting group. That's why we always arrange for our clients to live here. Also, people are really friendly here.

Candy Melwany, England

I like this hotel very much. I mean the real hospitality, Chinese style management here for me experiencing the great culture. It's different from other foreign hotels like the Hilton. And, you can walk across the street for shopping, go to bar street for fun...lots of relaxing things to do.

Ikhlas & Elbadri, Sudan

I'd like to mention the room service. I think it's really good, quick and convenient. I'm sure we'll come here next time when we come to Beijing.

By Hydie



To Let

"To Let" represents the ideas of the readers and does not necessarily express the views of this paper.

Price: 4,200 - 4,500 yuan

Description: fully furnished apartment, two bedroom, 90 square meters.

Location: Duhui Huating, Balizhuang, Chaoyang district.

Furniture: beds, sofa, telephone, table, chairs and dinning table.

Home appliance: air-conditioner, television, refrigerator, washing machine and kitchen facilities.

Required: Stable job in Beijing and at least one year lease.

Contact: 84865229 (only from Monday to Friday), Richard Yao.

Activities



Chinese Culture Club - Write Spring Couplets

Chun lian (Spring Couplets), poetic couplets written on red paper and pasted on the top or two sides of the door, is a centuries-old tradition for ordinary people to bring good wishes for the New Year. Free of charge. Ink, brush, red paper and English narration provided. Sign up now!

Where: Hengye Souvenir Store, No. 25, Dashila shopping street, opposite Tongrentang, the famous old drugstore with two huge stone lions in the front. Qianmen area. **When:** February 2, 10:00-12:00 am. **Tel:** contact Feng Cheng on 8462-2081/1350-103-5145. **Email:** chinese_cultureclub@hotmail.com. **Web:** www.chinesecultureclub.org

YPHH - Young Professional Happy Hour Free Tsingtao beer, cheap drinks and food. Lucky draw gives you the chance to win a month tutoring at the Bridge School. **Where:** Costa Brava, south gate of Chaoyang Park. **When:** Jan. 30. **Tel:** 65079898.

Beijing Hash House Harriers

Route: from Mexican Wave (150 m north of Gui You Shopping Center, 65063961) to Badashu Park. **When:** Jan 27, 1:30pm.



Flamenco Dance Corner

Spanish teacher Veronica will give classes in Sevillanas and other types of Flamenco. **Where:** Havana Cafe, outside the north gate of Gongti (Workers' Stadium), Chaoyang District. **When:** Feb. 6-9, from 8-9:30pm. **Admission:** 500 yuan for 6-hour course. **Tel:** 65866166, 13671141145 (Veronica).

Latin Salsa Dance Classes (Basic & Intermediate) Teacher Lucho Roa is from Colombia. 30 students maximum. **Where:** Pacific Century Club, 5F, Building E, Pacific Century Place, 2 Gongtibeilu. **When:** basic, Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm, Feb. 19-Apr. 9 (8 weeks); Intermediate, Thursdays, 8-9:30pm, Feb. 21-Apr. 11 (8 weeks). **Fee:** 600 yuan per person. Registration ends Feb. 4. **Tel:** 13601306630 (Ms. Lucy Chen), 65321713 or 13701325662 (Mr. Lucho Roa).

Health

Doctor Talks

What would you do in an emergency situation? What local hospital facilities are available to you in Beijing? This presentation at Beijing International SOS Clinic will cover topics such as staying healthy in China, recommended vaccinations, health hazards, risks and common illnesses pertinent to living and traveling in China.

Where: Beijing International SOS Clinic. **When:** 6-7pm Tuesday, January 29. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 64620555 ext. 272. **E-mail:** china.marketing@internationalsos.com

Weather

Saturday January 26	Overcast to clear Max: 4C. Min: -5C.	
Sunday January 27	Overcast to clear Max: 6C. Min: -6C.	
Monday January 28	Clear to cloudy Max: 6C. Min: -6C.	
Tuesday January 29	Clear Max: 6C. Min: -8C.	
Wednesday January 30	Clear Max: 6C. Min: -8C.	
Thursday January 31	Clear to cloudy Max: 5C. Min: -6C.	
Friday February 1	Overcast to clear Max: 4C. Min: -6C.	

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo @ ynet.com or call 65902520.

By Priscilla / Lydia

Exhibitions

Classical Realism

An exhibition of more than 130 oil paintings by 40 artists of all ages.

Price: 2 yuan.

Where: Deshengmen Watchtower, Bei'erhuanlu, Xicheng district, subway to Deshengmen. **When:** till Feb 28, Tue-Sun, 9am-6pm, 3/F, East Gallery. **Tel:** 82014962.



South America Watercolor Paintings

By Song Xinru. Born in 1942, Song graduated from Beijing Industrial Art School. He moved to South America and has held many local exhibitions there. This is his first exhibition in China. Handmade handicrafts also on show.

Where: Hualai Gallery, 74 Donghuamen Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Jan. 26-Feb. 4. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65238128.

Exhibition by Liu Bin

Born in 1946 in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province and graduate of the Central Institute of Arts & Crafts in Beijing. His works are mostly concerned with folk traditions and trying to express his inner self with modern and original brush strokes.

Where: Cultural Office, Italian Embassy, Sanlitun Dong'erjie, Chaoyang District.

Music

One Concert, Three Styles

Pipa Recital by Luan Yue, Peking Opera, Dan (female performer in Peking Opera) pieces by China Opera Academy, All Mozart Program by Central Conservatory Azur String Quartet.

Where: Beijing Gold Sail Concert Hall, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Jan. 25, 6:30, 8:00 and 9:30pm respectively. **Admission:** 80 yuan for each segment. **Tel:** 65289074.

Sounds of Nature

Children's Chorus of China National Symphony Orchestra. Conductor: Yang Hongnian. **Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** Jan. 27, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-280 yuan. **Tel:** 65598284.

Fall Insects

Band performance.

Where: Sound Stage.

When: Jan. 26,

9:30pm. **Admission:**

30 yuan, 20 yuan for

students. **Tel:**

82049579.

Jazz!

This bar used to

rock out with famous

poet/musician Dou

Wei. Nowadays it's

heavy on jazz, with

smoky sounds of the

house band.

Where: Club

Green, Landmark

Tower, 8 Dongsanhuanbeilu, Chaoyang District.

When: every Wed, 9:30pm-midnight.

Tel: 65906688.

Chorus Concert

By Wings of Spring Chorus.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall,

Zhongshan Park. **When:** Jan. 26, 7:30pm.

Admission: 10-100 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

Music at Bars

Evening News, Second-hand Rose, Jan.

26, Shi Jiao Ri, Zhi Xi, Feb. 1, Get Lucky

Bar, 64299109. Funky & Techy, Club Vogue,

10 pm, 64165316. Blues by Rhythm Dog,

Jam House, 9pm, 65063845. Band Perfor-

mance: Radiation Active Band, Schiller's 3,

9pm, 65931078. Mitabe: Band performance

from Africa, Jam House, 9pm, 65063845.

Traditional Chinese Music

The San Wei Tea House presents tradi-

tional Chinese music each Saturday eve-

ning from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 pm, featuring

some of China's best classical musicians.

You'd better make a reservation. **Admis-**

sion: 30 yuan. **Tel:** 6601 3204. **Email:**

sanweitea@yahoo.com

Symphonic Concert

Program: Liu Tingyu, Susan Suite; Zhou

Long, King Chu Doff's His Armours; Rach-

maninov, Symphony No. 2 in E Minor, Op. 27.

Pipa Soloist,

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall,

Zhongshan Park. **When:** Feb. 1, 7:30pm. **Ad-**

mission: 30-220 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

Music Directory

Beijing Concert

Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie,

L i u b u k o u ,

X i c h a n g ' a n j i e ,

Xicheng District. **Tel:**

66055812.

Central Conser-

vatory of Music, 43

Baojiajie, Xicheng

District. **Tel:**

66425733.

Forbidden City

Concert Hall, inside

Zhongshan Park,

Xichang'anjie. **Tel:**

65598285.

Goldsail Concert Hall, 24 Wangfujing

Dajie, Dongcheng District. **Tel:** 65289074

National Library Concert Hall, 33

Zhongguancundajie, Haidian District., **Tel:**

68485462.

Poly Plaza International Theater, 1/F,

Poly Plaza, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie,

Dongcheng District. **Tel:** 65001188 ext

5127.

Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwailu, Xuan-

wu District. **Tel:** 63030300.

Workers Stadium, Gongti Hotel, Cha-

oyang District. **Tel:** 65016655.



M8

M8 sits in a quiet

and unassuming lo-

cation just east of

the main Bar Street

strip. Come see what's

changed since the re-

cent renovation!

Where: M8, 58 Qi-

peijie, Sanlitun Nanjie, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 65869544.

When: till Feb. 5, Mon.- Fri, 9am-1pm, 2-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65322187.

Spring Festival's Chinese Paintings

Where: Qin Gallery, 38A Fangeaodi Beijie, Chaoyang District. **When:** till Jan. 31. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65074062.

Classical Realistic Oil Paintings Exhibition

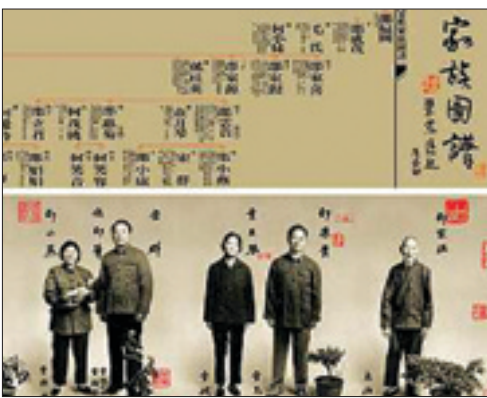
By Wen Lipen, Zhang Chunqing, Chen Lingxin. **Where:** 3F, East Gallery, Deshengmen watchtower, Bei'erhuan Zhonglu, Xicheng District. **When:** till Feb. 28, 9am-5pm (closed on Mon). **Admission:** 2 yuan. **Tel:** 82014962.

Chinese Celebrities

Lifelike chinaware sculptures featuring figures of modern celebrities. **Where:** Yanhuang Art Museum, 9 Huizhonglu, Chaoyang District. **When:** till Feb. 3. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 64912902.

Family Registry

Works by Shao Yinong and Mu Chen. **Where:** Courtyard Gallery, 95 Donghuamen Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** till March 13. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65268882.



Symphonic Concert

Program: Liu Tingyu, Susan Suite; Zhou

Long, King Chu Doff's His Armours; Rach-

maninov, Symphony No. 2 in E Minor, Op. 27.

Pipa Soloist,

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall,

Zhongshan Park. **When:** Feb. 1, 7:30pm. **Ad-**

mission: 30-220 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

Music Directory

Beijing Concert

Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie,

L i u b u k o u ,

X i c h a n g ' a n j i e ,

Xicheng District. **Tel:**

66055812.

Central Conser-

vatory of Music, 43

Baojiajie, Xicheng

District. **Tel:**

66425733.

Forbidden City

Concert Hall, inside

Zhongshan Park,

Xichang'anjie. **Tel:**

65598285.

Goldsail Concert Hall, 24 Wangfujing

Dajie, Dongcheng District. **Tel:** 65289074

National Library Concert Hall, 33

Zhongguancundajie, Haidian District., **Tel:**

68485462.

Poly Plaza International Theater, 1/F,

Poly Plaza, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie,

Dongcheng District. **Tel:** 65001188 ext

5127.

Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwailu, Xuan-

wu District. **Tel:** 63030300.

Workers Stadium, Gongti Hotel, Cha-

oyang District. **Tel:** 65016655.

Spring Song & Dance Per-

formance Blood Sea Opera House

from North Korea was established in

1971 and boasts over 600 per-

formers. **Where:** Minority Culture

Palace Theater, Minzu Hotel, **When:**

Feb. 2, 7:30pm. **Admis-**

sion: 80-380 yuan. **Tel:** 66071843,

66054739.

Raise the Red Lantern

Ballet based on Zhang Yimou's

film of the same name returns to

Beijing. Central Ballet Troupe.

Where: Tianqiao Theater, 30 Bei-

wailu, Xuanwu District. **When:** Jan.

25, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 63030300.

Alice in Wonderland

A children's play based on the

popular book by Lewis Carroll. Fea-

turing the Queen of Hearts, the

White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat and

others. Funny dialogue, fantastic

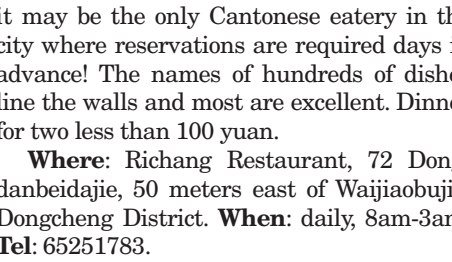
costumes, and wonderful songs and

dances. Ticket sales will support a

school for children of migrant work-

ers in Beijing.

Where: Theatre of the Western



Movies

Mediterraneo

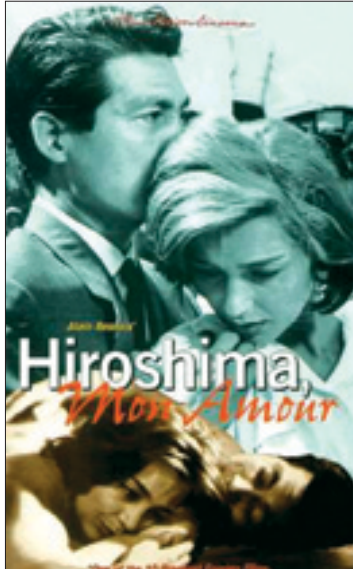
An Oscar winner in 1991, a bittersweet commentary on war and peace by Italian director, Gabriele Salvatores. Italian with English subtitles. Free.

Where: Cultural Office of Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'erjie, Chaoyang District. **When:** Jan 31, 7pm. **Tel:** 65322187.

Movie by Alain Resnais

Influential French New Wave director Hiroshima Mon Amour (1959).

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee House (Box Cafe), The Loft. **When:** 7pm, Feb. 2 (the Cafe), 3pm, Feb. 3 (The Loft). **Tel:** 62791280, 6506559



Go for Broke

This movie is based on the real story of six laid off workers. In Shanghainese with English subtitles.

Cultural Tour



Though poorly maintained, Yangping Guildhall retains a sense of magnificence

Photos by East

The largest Qing Dynasty opera house in Beijing, headquarters of Wang Zhengyi's armed escort service and the Temple of the God of Medicine, you can find these and other historical relics along the recently widened Guang'an Street. If you have a bicycle, you could easily spend a day exploring this region.

By Jiang Zhong

Originally constructed in the 1950s, Guang'an Street served as the main east-west artery in the south of Beijing. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Sanlihe River followed the course of what is now Guang'an Street, and was used to ship various goods to the emperors' palace. Even today, many hutongs lining both sides of the street still bear names related to river facilities, such as Nanqiaowan (South Bridge Bay), Shuidaozi (Watercourse) and Dashiqiao (Big Stone Bridge).

From west to east, Caishikou (菜市场 Food Market Entrance), Zhushikou (珠市口 Pearl Market Entrance) and Suanshikou (蒜市口 Garlic Market Entrance) are three important areas where numerous cultural and historical relics can be found. Although many homes were demolished to make way for the widening of Guang'an Street, the work revealed many relics once hidden away.

Guildhalls and opera houses

During the Ming and Qing dynasties, merchants and officials from all the country's provinces often gathered in Beijing. They built magnificent office buildings, especially in the south part of the city, as the guildhalls of respective provinces and cities. Guildhalls were seldom built in the inner city (in what are now Xicheng and Dongcheng districts), because the Manchu rulers made many regulations restricting movements in this region.

The most renowned guildhall in Beijing today is the Huguang (湖广) Guildhall near Caishikou in Xuanwu District. The opera house and the rear complex of this guildhall remain intact. The opera house is much like a modern theatre; audience seats are arranged on three sides of the stage, a layout rarely seen in other opera houses of the period. Traditional Beijing Opera performances are still given on the old stage at Huguang Guildhall. If it is too crowded for your liking, there is another magnificent opera house in the much quieter Yangping (阳平) Guildhall, not far away in the Qianmen area.

Yangping, the old name for Linfen, was once known as one of the three important cities of Shanxi Province. (The other two were the capital Taiyuan and Datong). This

Guildhalls and Opera houses



Small pavilion at the Temple of the God of Medicine

opera house is larger than that of Huguang Guildhall, and even more magnificent. Though poorly maintained, most of the wooden structure, and the murals, shrines and stone tablets are undamaged. There are several other guildhalls to be found within a five square kilometer area of Xuanwu and Chongwen districts.

Caishikou, where the Huguang Guildhall is located, is a place of legend in Beijing. Many historical characters' residences can be found here.

Zhushikou, three kilometers east of Caishikou, boasts as many attractions as Caishikou. Besides more guildhalls, you can visit the Yuanshun Armed Escort Firm (源顺镖局).

Yuanshun Armed Escort Firm

Yuanshun was built in 1879. The initiator Wang Zhengyi, nicknamed Broadsword Wang, was a warrior who gained fame in battles with the foreign invaders (the eight allied forces) and his armed escort firm was also a rallying point for patriotic forces in Beijing. Wang

was killed near Qianmen at the age of 56, and his business was subsequently shut down by the Qing government. Most of the buildings are well preserved and since 1949, Wang's descendants lived there, until the fourth generation moved out last year. Besides the old buildings, some of the original furniture can also be found in the old rooms.

South of Zhushikou is the Temple of Heaven. If you have already visited this well-known landmark, you might consider a stop at the elegant Temple of the God of Medicine (药王庙), just to the north, near Suanshikou.

Temple of the God of Medicine

There are a number of Medicine God Temples in Beijing; this one is the biggest. This Taoist temple was originally constructed for celebrating the birthday of famous Ming Dynasty eunuch Wei Zhongxian. Between 1621 and 1628, when Wei was de-facto ruler of China, some court officials built birthday-celebrating temples for him as a means of flattery. Wei later came to a sticky end, he was executed by Emperor Chongzhen, the last emperor of Ming Dynasty, and most of his "birthday" temples were also demolished, however this one survived.

Bicycle tour along Guang'an Street

Start your tour in south west Beijing in Beibinhelu (北滨河路) at Tianning (天宁) Temple Pagoda. Built in 1083, this thirteen-eave pagoda features countless complex carvings and relief works, and is a state-level protected historical relic. Bicycle south along Beibinhelu and turn left (east) at Guang'anmen (广安门) Bridge, onto Guang'anmennei Dajie (Street 广安门内大街). On the north side of the street you will find many old hutongs, or lanes. Ten minutes later, after passing the

State Information Center on the north, you will come to an alley leading to Baoguo Temple (报国寺). Government departments now occupy most halls of this temple. However the cultural fair and collection exchange market are still worth visiting.

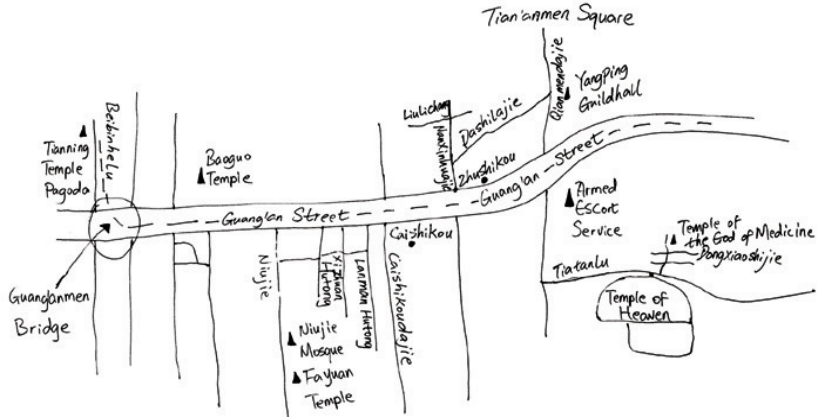
Coming out of Baoguo Temple, you will come to Niujie (牛街) an area heavily populated with Muslims) after about a fifteen minutes ride. Head south along Niujie, and you will come to Niujie Mosque. Take some time to look at the many relics housed here. Return to Guang'an Street and cycle on to Jiaozhi (教子) Hutong. Ride along the hutong and you will soon come to Fayuan (法源) Temple. This is the oldest temple in Beijing. All the buildings have been preserved, and it is well worth spending some time here. In the next two hutongs, Xizhuan (西砖) and Lanman (烂缦), you will find the Hunan and Shaoxing (绍兴) guildhalls.

Cycle on past Caishikou you will come to Zhushikou intersection. On the south west corner you will see the Huguang Guildhall. If you are tired, you can stop here for something to eat or a pot of tea, and perhaps watch a performance of Beijing Opera. The China Traditional Opera Museum is next to the guildhall.

To the north of Zhushikou intersection is Nanxinhua (南新华街), and if you head down this street a little way, you'll come to Liulichang Cultural Street. Return to Zhushikou intersection after this detour and continue eastward. You will soon come to Qianmen Dajie (前门大街). You can find Yangping Guildhall in Xiaojiang (小江) Hutong and Wang Zhengyi's Yuanshun Armed Escort Firm in Xibanbijie (西半壁街) both parallel to Qianmendajie.

Make your way back to Qianmen Dajie and cycle southward to the first big crossroads at Tianqiao. Turn left (east) and ride along the broad road named Tiantanlu. You will soon come to the Temple of Heaven. After passing the north gate of the Temple of Heaven, you will find the Xiyuanzisixiang (西园子四巷) the Fourth Alley of Xiyuanzi. Take this alley to Dongxiaoshijie (东晓市街) where you will find the Temple of the God of Medicine.

If you include all the stops suggested, this bicycle tour could easily fill a day, depending on how long you spend at each site.



Chinawide



Wuyuan A village of simple beauty

By Jiang Zhong

People on the tourist trail in south China's Jiangxi province seem largely to overlook the ancient village of Wuyuan (婺源), despite rave reviews in many guidebooks. Perhaps the proximity of more famous attractions such as Huangshan and Lushan mountains and Jingdezhen are a distraction.

Wuyuan is a picturesque collection of Ming and Qing dynasty buildings, ancient trees, bamboo forests, waterfalls, stone bridges, and streams criss-crossing farmland. The old buildings here, described as Hui (short for Anhui) Style in architectural reference books, typically feature white walls and intricately carved black tiled roofs.

Blue sky, green water and black and white buildings such as can be seen in Wuyuan are the embodiment of traditional Chinese landscape painting. However the scenery at dusk is perhaps even more attractive for visitors from big cities. The village falls quiet at that time, with the occasional barking of dogs the only sound. The last rays of the sun dye the clouds red, and a gentle breeze tugs at the smoke from the kitchen chimneys.

Visitors are able to get a close-up look at local family life. Most of the old houses are open to the public, and residents will not change their daily routine at the sudden invasion of a few curious tourists. You can wander through the sitting rooms, the corridors, even the kitchens and bedrooms, so long as you don't touch the old wooden decorations and furniture. You might also be invited to eat the candies or pastries laid out on the red tables.

While you are looking around, the family will pay you no attention, watching TV in the sitting room. They will wave you a greeting only if you disturb them with the click of an old hinge.

That is Wuyuan, an ideal place to fill a few pages of your photo album.

Getting there: train or bus to Nanchang, then bus to Wuyuan. (6 hours, 60 yuan; buses depart at 7:20am and 4:20pm daily).

Tips: If you visit Wuyuan during Chinese Spring Festival, you will have the chance to witness the amazing Desk Lantern Dance; a local guide should be of great help.



Photo by RocketMan

Jielingkou Castle

By RocketMan

Locals say Jielingkou (界岭口) Castle is like a boat and they are the passengers.

Jielingkou Castle is fifty kilometers north of Funing (阜宁), in Hebei Province. Ten families now live in the 'boat'. Old-timers will tell you that the castle once featured both inner and outer sections. The inner section has almost completely disappeared, only some thirty meters of the western wall remains. A six-meter-high entrance was made in the wall, and a small stream runs in front of the entrance.

The two ends of the castle join up with the Great Wall. Small troop-stationing castles were built on both the east and west sides.

Huge bricks were used in the construction of these ten-meter-high troop-stationing castles, which each had just one entrance. Watchtowers that once stood atop the castles disappeared long ago. According to one old man, a Baishe (White Snake) Temple used to stand on the top of the eastern castle, and a Nanhai (South Sea) Temple on the eastern.

A Temple dedicated to the God of War used to stand near the main entrance to the outer part of the castle; three or four tablets stood there also. Now only one tablet remains. In the Qing Dynasty, soldiers or officials checked the passes or collected taxes from those passing through the gate.

To the east, the Great Wall winds through the mountains toward Shanhai Pass and the sea.

Jielingkou Castle was named after the Jieling Mountains. Two high peaks loom over the castle on the east and west. A river named Yanghe divided the castle into two parts. The two parts were formed a diamond shape and were known as Yuecheng (Moon City). Standing on the mountainside, you can clearly distinguish the outline of Yuecheng.

For more information visit: <http://thegreatwall.com.cn>

Great Wall buffs